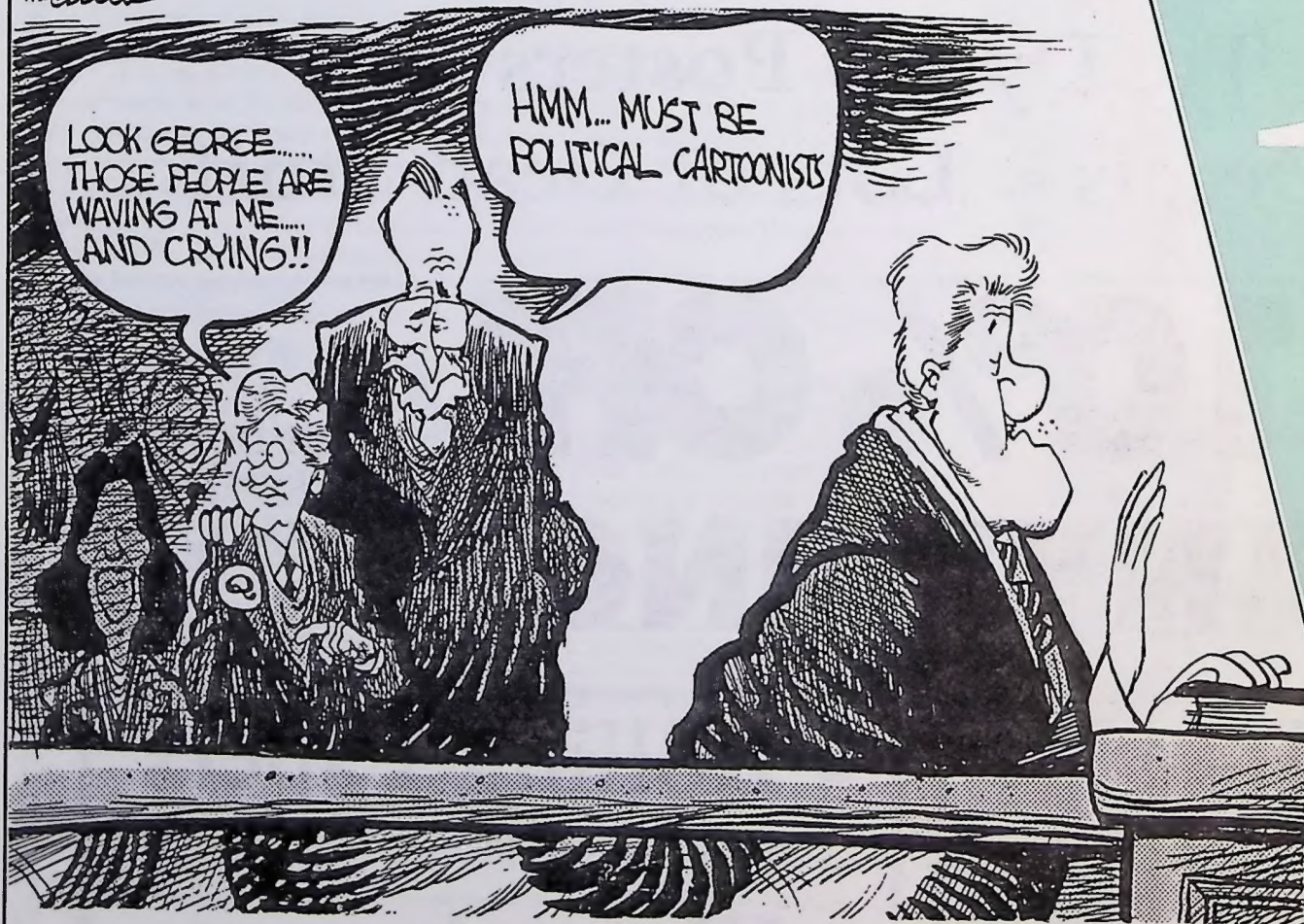


EPISODE #80
January 28, 1993

The Valley COMIC N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

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the Gazette



NEW THIS ISSUE:

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:

PARDON ME
SADDAM SHAME
GREAT EXPECTATIONS
GUNS AND BUTTER
BEYOND POLITIX
OTHER STUFF

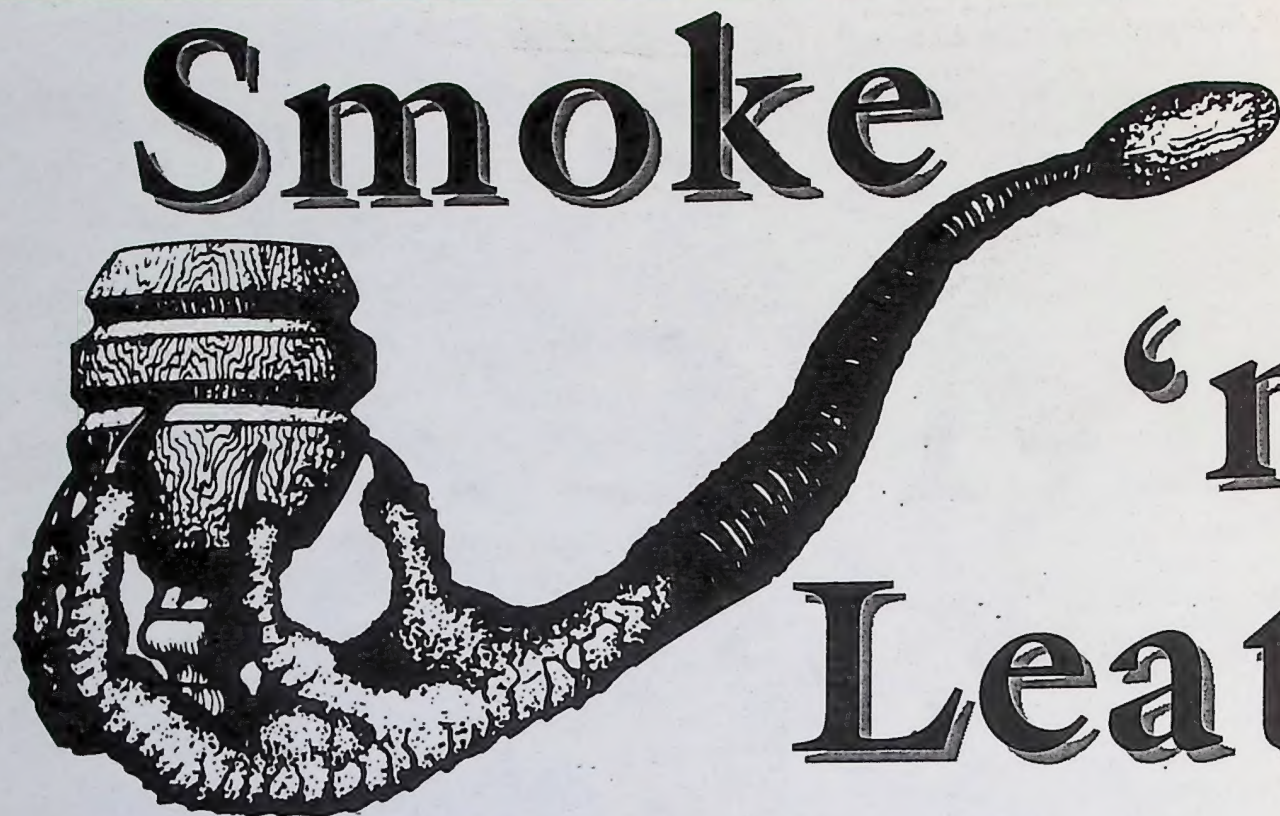
INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
IZZY GESELL'S HUMOR ME,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
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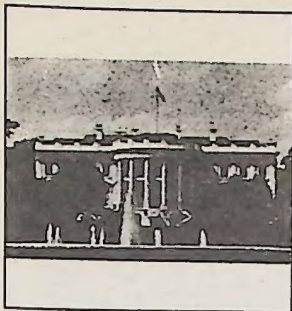
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PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



Well, I went to the Inauguration. Bill invited America to come on down, and as far as I could tell, America came. You all saw some of it on TV, but you weren't *there*, simply because you do not have the desire to stand for three hours with every molecule of your body pressing against six other people's bodies, in 30° weather, with no bathrooms in sight.

Fortunately for you, I *was* there, so as a public service, this column will now offer several minutes of random impressions about the recent transition of power.

- I haven't seen so many men wearing monkey suits and women stuffed into stiff, uncomfortable, ugly, expensive, sequined gowns since my senior prom.

- On Inauguration Day there were no homeless people noticeable in downtown Washington. The next day there were.

- I stood next to former criminal Marion Barry. Several people asked if they could have their picture taken with him. I asked if he could get me any drugs.

- I saw Whizzer White and Ron Brown and Bill and Al waving from their cars. (Bill and Al have DC plates #1 and #2. Another example of what powerful people can do. I think they should give those low numbers to homeless people who are living in their cars. At least then people would say, "Wow, where'd you get those low numbers?")

- I heard the crowd roar when Bill and Al got out two blocks from where I was standing, and I saw them walking: tiny, happy people.

- How to tell the visitors from the residents in Washington: residents are required to wear topcoats. It's the topcoat capital of the universe. If residents defy the topcoat requirement, the district police cut the tassels off their loafers.

- After sharing my molecules with the crowd (see above), I found Western Massachusetts' own Wholesale Klezmer Band, which was in the front row of the parade route, playing music. Someone near me asked what kind of music the band was playing. I said it was Yiddish, Eastern European. The person said, "It's good." The band let me into their front-row seats, which is why I can bring you such insightful Inauguration coverage. Thanks to their musicianship and kindness, when the parade ended the entire band ascended into heaven, so don't look for them to be playing locally soon.

- Everywhere I went I heard people talking about how good they felt, and how they finally felt included in America. There's nothing particularly funny about that, or even cynical, but it was pervasive, and I really enjoyed hearing it.

- Two days after the Inauguration I went down to the Vietnam Memorial, because Vietnam defined my life. Among other emotions, I was happy the new President had been a protestor, even if he sometimes tried to pretend he wasn't.

Then I came home to get back to work. And to see if there was a part for me in this new band I hear is getting together — this New Beginning in America, with W.J. Clinton on sax. I know that's corny, but so is Kansas in August, and people applaud that at the drop of a hat. Clap, clap, clap. Thank you very much. It's great to be here.

The Valley Comic News

P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061 413-586-2274

Publisher/Editor • Mike Chrisman Founder • David Hooks

Co-Publisher • Izzy Gesell Advertising Director/Co-Publisher • Silvana Gravini

Co-Publisher • Hank Ryan Printing • The Recorder • Greenfield, Mass.

Copying • Paradise Copies Graphic Design • Sean Slattery

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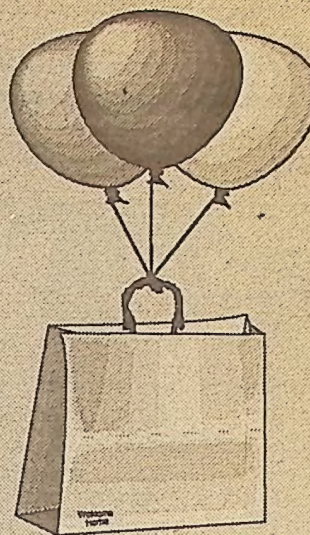
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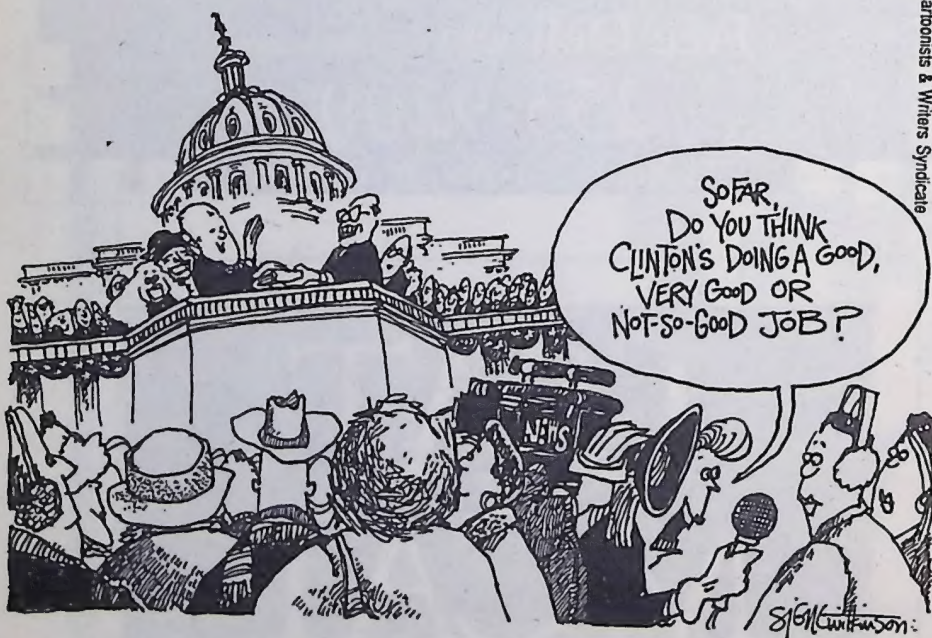
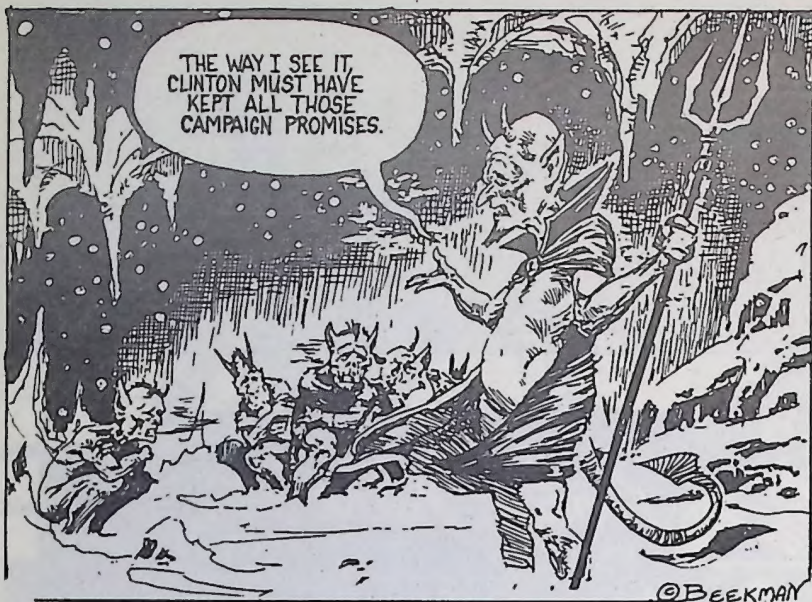
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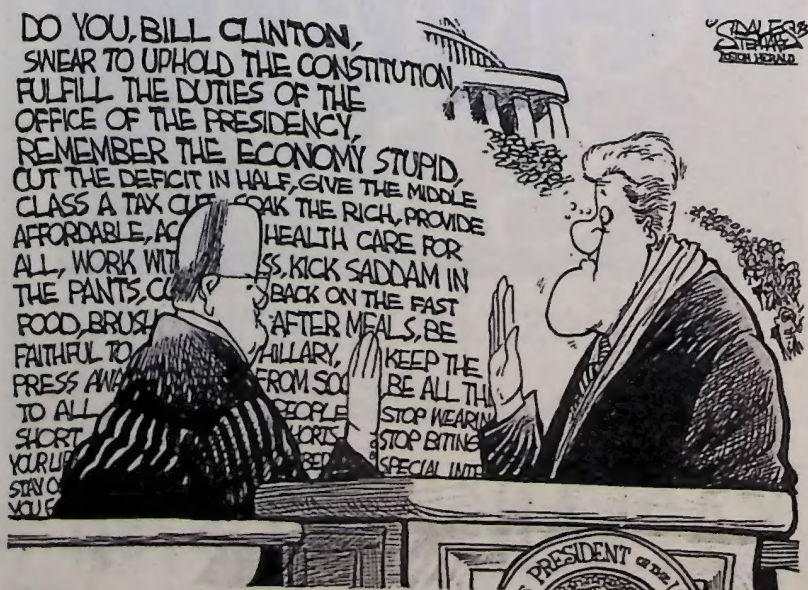
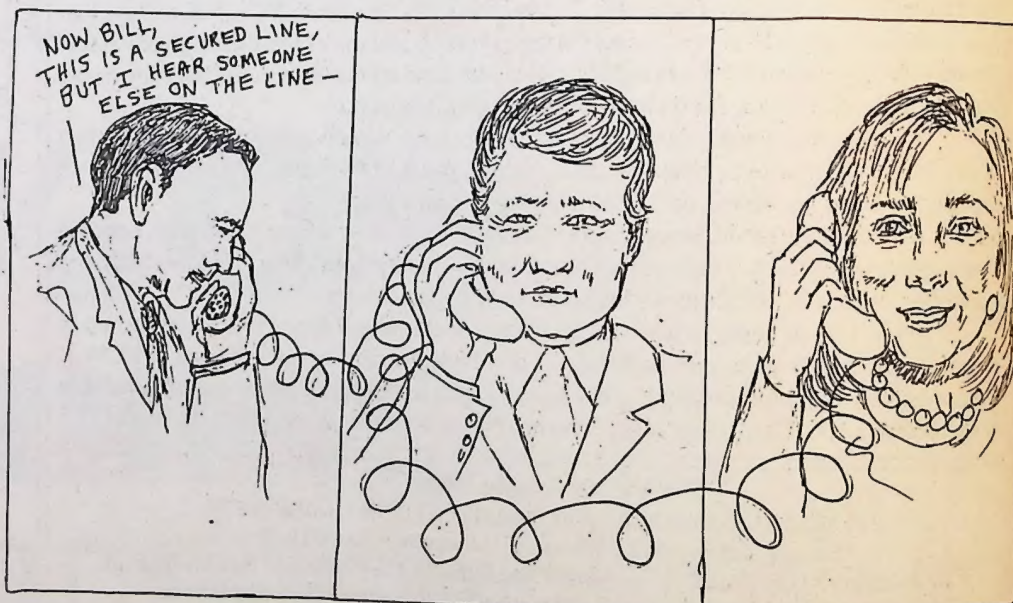
The answer to the test question.

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GREAT EXPECTATIONS

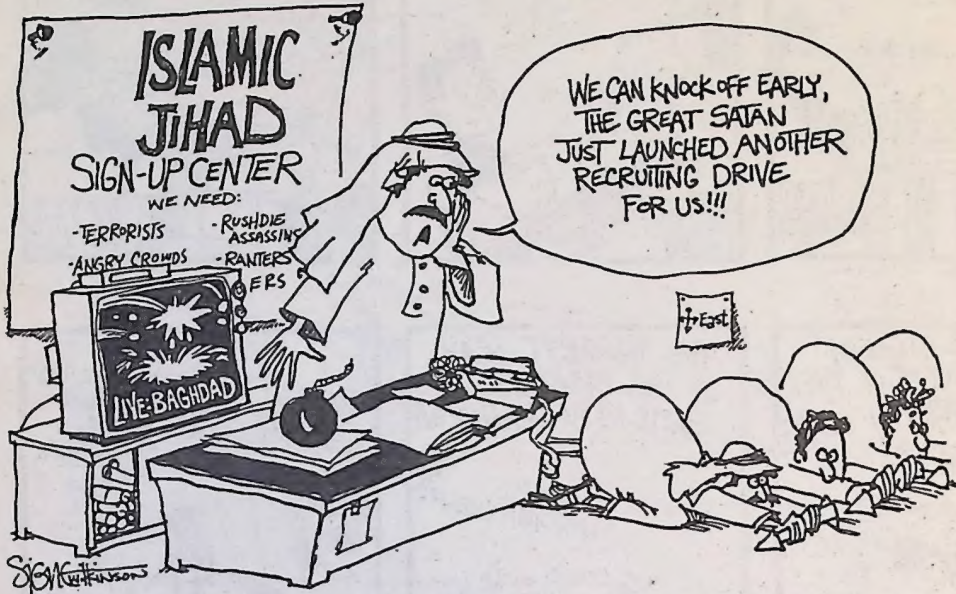


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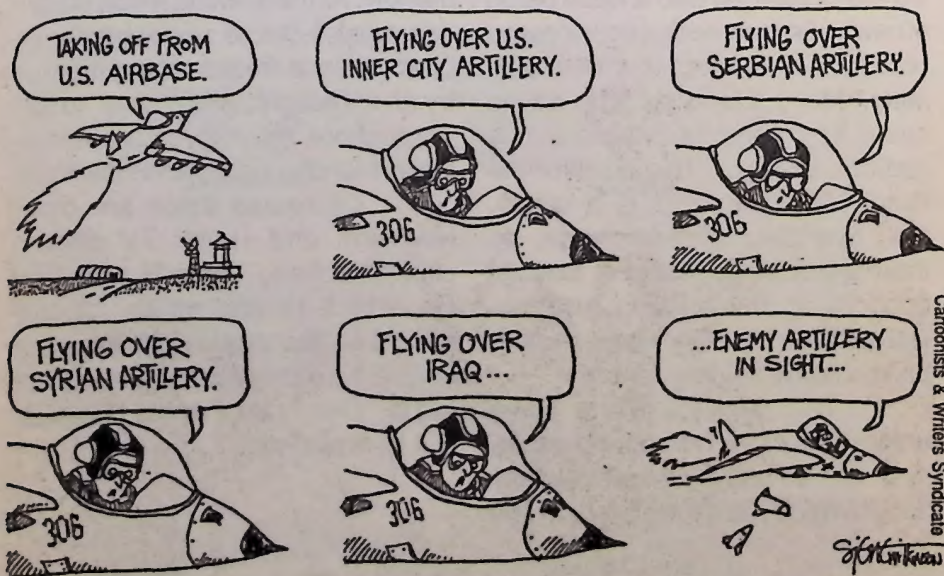


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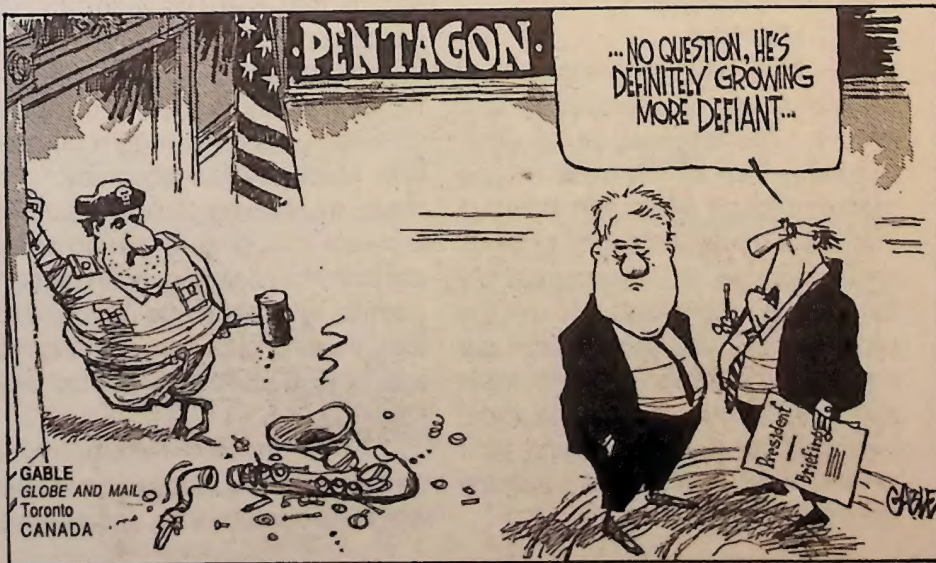
SADDAM SHAME



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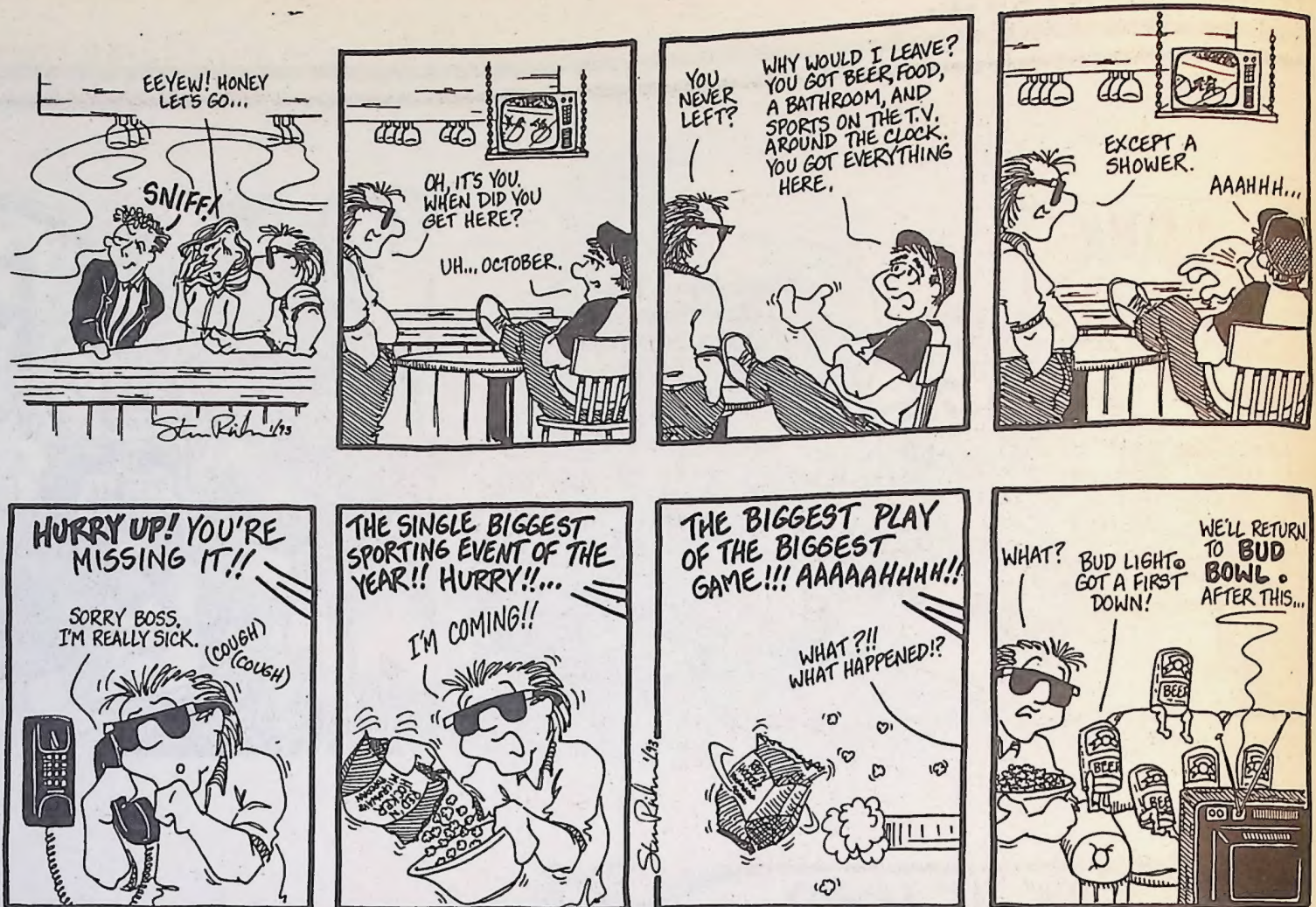


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THE BRASS & FERN

By Steve Riehm



HEAVEN AND HELL

by Teresa M. Truitt

If life is meaningful, then surely death must be meaningful too. Not being religious, I grapple with the dilemma of an afterlife in terms of what I know from life, and if there's anything I've learned from life, it's that everything is relative.

I conclude, therefore, that in the afterlife, everything is relative: what seems excellent to one person is a major bummer to another. It's my own version of Heaven and Hell. Here's how it works:

Mall Hell

Mall Hell is constructed of several levels of degradation and misery. The first level is the outer circumference of the mall — the "parking" lot. It twists and wanders through a maze-like series of lanes and alleys, all of them completely full. Just as you're about to exit the lot in disgust, you spot a large car backing out of a space near the main entrance. You race for the lane, jockeying for position, cutting your wheels, only to discover it's already taken by a moped.

Inside the mall are rude shopclerks, dangerous children, unattractive art, and indigestible food. So far, just like life. But you know it's Hell when you come upon a performing arts exhibition in the mall's main concourse. The mariachi-accordion-tuba band is all warmed up and waiting for the star performer — you!

Mall Heaven

There is no Mall Heaven.

Urban Heaven/Rural Hell

One of a pair of afterlife alternatives, the Urban Heaven/Rural Hell complex presents the very same set of circumstances to two different types of inmates. It's a complete urban metropolis, lovingly replicated with Machiavellian accuracy. For those in Heaven, there are taxis, first-rate shopping, a myriad of social activities, dazzling, dramatic panoramas of street crime (enacted for their viewing pleasure), darling bistros, and a stunningly-crafted skyline.

For those in Hell, however, there are public transport systems filled with despair, fear, and a nause-

ating stench, an overwhelming array of social obligations (*faux pas* included), dazzling, dramatic panoramas of street crime (enacted for their viewing horror), ghastly, expensive, trendy bistros, and a skyline that chokes the sun. Shopping is out of the question, because claustrophobia overwhelms the would-be buyers, who are used to shopping in stores with aisles the width of well-plowed fields.

Rural Heaven/Urban Hell

Recent Rural Heaven arrivals are presented with a fresh batch of newly-discovered first cousins who recognize and adopt them immediately. Many a long summer day is spent in communal inebriation in pastoral settings. The ideal for the Rural Heaven-dweller is a stable, dull, eventless post-existence, so there are no surprises here. Days of good fishing, fine brewing, rustic social gatherings all follow one another as in a hazy, golden dream.

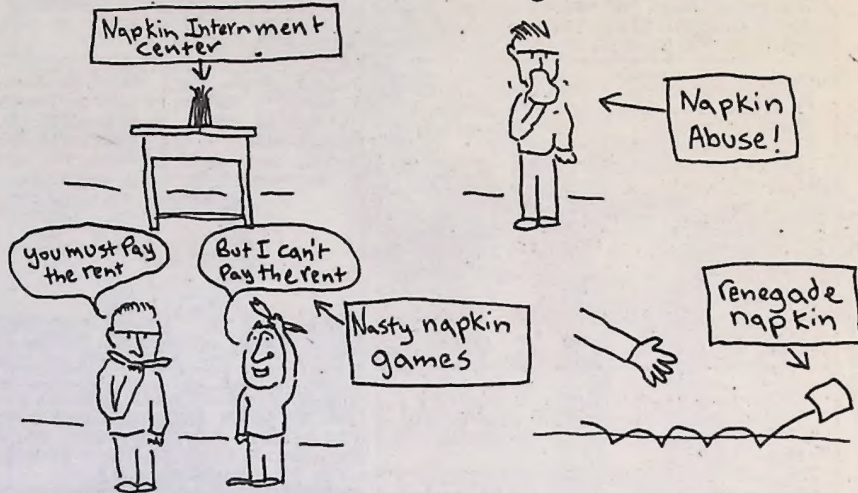
This package offers some unique terrors for Hell-bound urbanites. Immediately upon arrival, they are greeted by large, well-fed people

who claim family relationship to them. Thus claimed, they are bundled off to the "homestead," a remote, deceptively quaint edifice that doesn't even have cable. They are compelled to "set" on the veranda, a dangerous, wooden structure bordered by vicious "pets" that threaten to rub against them, uninvited. Real horror sets in when new arrivals are informed the nearest bus stop back to civilization is "a few parsecs down the road," and the bus usually doesn't stop, but the driver honks just to be friendly. At the evening meal, urbanites must listen to undoubtedly inbred violence-freaks urging them to try an unrecognizable dish of "food." Throughout, the natives are relentlessly friendly, warm, and solicitous.

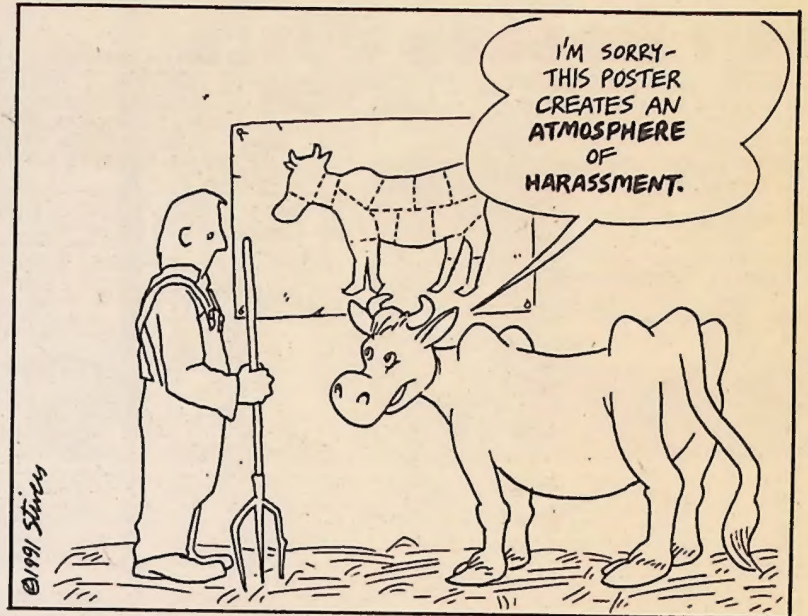
Of course there are other Heavens and Hells: TV sitcom Heaven & Hell, Disco H & H, Bob Hope H & H, and so on. I only described the ones I did because they're the ones I expect to be admitted to. Like I said, I'm not religious. But I am realistic.

BEYOND POLITIX

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- YOU CAN'T FIRE ME-I QUIT!
- DAMN!
- MY LIFE'S RUINED!

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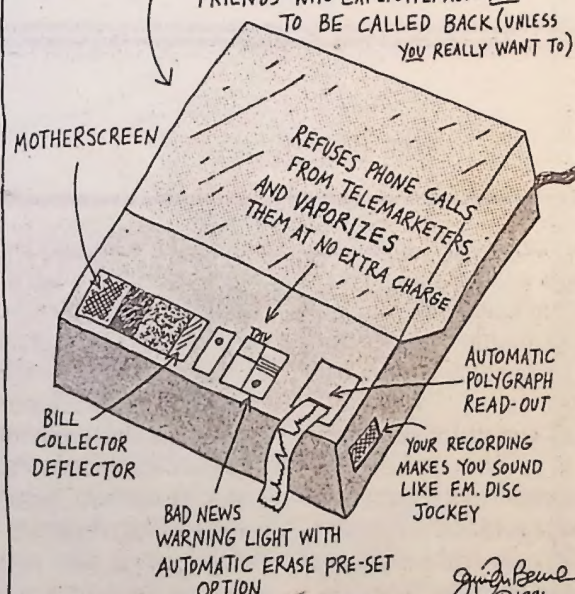
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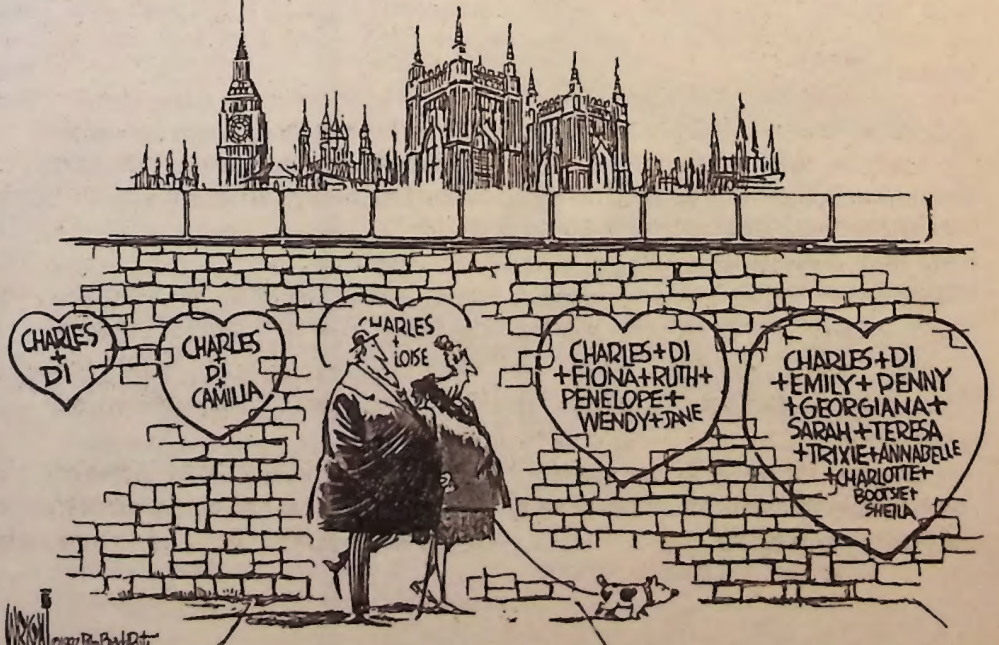
CAT SELF-HELP BOOKS:



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THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW-12-93

NO ONE CAN KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHAT BILL CLINTON WILL DO UPON TAKING OFFICE...PREDICTABLY, THIS HASN'T KEPT THE MEDIA FROM UNABASHEDLY FAWNING OVER HIM...

AND SO, IN HINDSIGHT, IT IS EASY TO SEE THE TRUE BRILLIANCE OF BILL CLINTON'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN!

COMING UP NEXT: AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF HIS TROUBLED GOOD LOOKS...



WE DOUBT THE CLINTON PRESIDENCY WILL EVEN PARTICULARLY RESEMBLE THE PORTRAIT PAINTED BY DAN QUAYLE--IN WHICH HE ATTEMPTED TO TERRIFY REPUBLICANS WITH VISIONS OF A SANE AND JUST SOCIETY...

CRADLE-TO-GRAVE SOCIALIZED MEDICINE... CONDOM DISTRIBUTION... A FEDERAL RIGHT TO ABORTION...



WHATEVER HIS PRESIDENCY IS LIKE, WE DOUBT IT WILL LIVE UP TO THE PREDICTIONS MADE LAST SUMMER BY REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIR RICH BOND--WHICH INCLUDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE HOLDING OF STATE DINNERS FOR FIDEL CASTRO...

SO FIDEL, I'D LIKE YOU TO OVERSEE AMERICA'S TRANSITION FROM DEMOCRACY TO TOTALITARIAN COMMUNIST RULE!

ANYTHING FOR A COMRADE, BILL!

LATER WE MUST REMINISCENCE ABOUT THE WILD DAYS OF OUR YOUTH IN MOSCOW, YES?

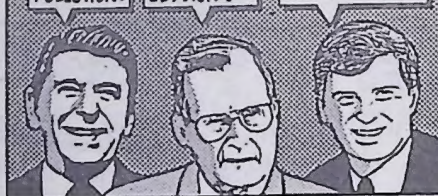


WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT TO FIND OUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN... BUT PERHAPS--JUST PERHAPS--THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL OCCASIONALLY DEMONSTRATE A MODICUM OF SANITY... IN MARKED CONTRAST TO ITS PRED-CESSORS...

TREES CAUSE POLLUTION!

RECESSION? WHAT RECESSION?

A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO LOSE...



THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW-12-93

EVENTS DURING BUSH'S FINAL DAYS MADE SATIRE REDUNDANT...FROM THE MEDIA'S INSTANT, SYCOPHANTIC (AND MISTAKEN) DENIALS OF U.S. CULPABILITY IN THE BOMBING OF AN IRAQI HOTEL--

THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION--SADDAM MUST HAVE PLANTED THOSE MISSILE FRAGMENTS!

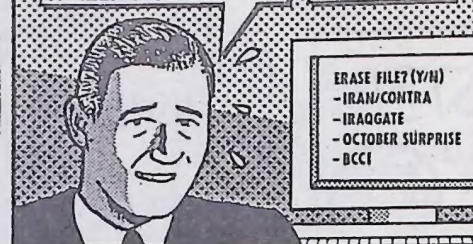
THANK YOU, GENERAL, FOR EXPOSING THAT MADMAN'S TRICKERY!



--TO THE COMICAL EXPLANATIONS GIVEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN THEIR DESPERATE LAST-MINUTE LEGAL BATTLE TO ERASE COMPUTER RECORDS...

WE WANT TO, UM, GIVE THE NEW PRESIDENT A CLEAN SLATE!

WE'RE ONLY TRYING TO BE HELPFUL!

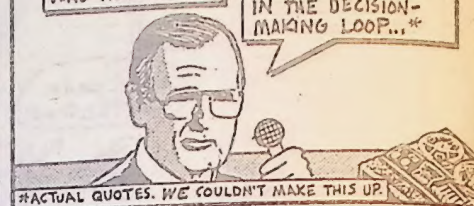


ERASE FILE? (Y/N)
-IRAN/CONTRA
-IRAQGATE
-OCTOBER SURPRISE
-BCCI

--TO THE RELEASE OF AN ABSURDLY SELF-SERVING TRANSCRIPT OF BUSH'S IRAN-CONTRA RUMINATIONS, THE VALIDITY OF WHICH WENT UNQUESTIONED--

JAN. 1, 1987... THE IRONY IS THAT ON MANY OF THESE KEY MEETINGS I WAS NOT THERE...

THESE SO-CALLED FINDINGS ON IRAN--I'LL BE HONEST--I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THEM...THE V.P. IS NOT IN THE DECISION-MAKING LOOP...*



*ACTUAL QUOTES. WE COULDN'T MAKE THIS UP.

THANKFULLY, THAT'S ALL BEHIND US...A NEW ERA OF OPEN AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN--KICKED OFF BY A WEEK OF INAUGURAL FESTIVITIES, MANY OF WHICH COULD ONLY BE VIEWED ON H.B.O...

THIS IS A DAY FOR ALL AMERICANS--

--WHO CAN AFFORD CABLE T.V., THAT IS!



JOE BOB BRIGGS

Last week this group of psychiatrists went to the Vatican to meet with the Pope to decide whether God believes in shrinks.

Wouldn't you like to be there, just to hear the conversation?

"Good morning, Your Holiness, we'd like to thank you for letting us share this space with you today, and possibly empathize with our feelings."

"Bless you, my sons."

"Well, that's one thing we wanted to talk about. We don't really need 'blessing,' that would mean we're not really taking control of our own life, wouldn't it?"

"I will leave you then in the arms of God."

"Yes. Well. If it's just the same to you, Your Popishness, Sir, we'd rather not shift the responsibility for our actions away from ourselves. 'Arms of God' implies a need for mothering, and, well, frankly, you don't wanna get us started on that subject. So the less we talk about the G-word the better."

"What can I do for you, my s... brothers?"

"We're starting to feel sibling rivalry when you turn us into brother surrogates like that."

"What the hell do you yahoos want?"

"That's much better, John Paul. May we call you John Paul? You're obviously getting in touch with your feelings of anger and frustration now. Your communication is becoming more honest."

"What is the purpose of your visit?"

"Much better, much better. All right. Our purpose is to find out why the church has historically had a distrust of psychiatry. We don't think that's healthy."

"Maybe it's because we've been counseling people for 2,000 years, and you've been doing it for less than a hundred."

"I'm afraid you're being defensive. You're putting up a wall between us, instead of communicating. Why are you turning away? What are you doing?"

"Praying."

"Very interesting. You might be surprised to know that we're in favor of prayer. What are you praying for?"

"That you will grow in wisdom."

"You're praying for me? Well, that's very nice, but, you see, we don't really believe that you can do anything about me. Only me can do something about me."

"If only me can do something about me, what do you need the ap-

proval of the church for?"

"That's a very good question, because normally we would believe that we shouldn't seek outside validation. All validation should come from within. However, there are certain mentally ill individuals who are confused by the fact that the church doesn't seem to be very supportive when it comes to working with their psychiatrists. But all we're trying to do is help people understand why they hate their mothers and their fathers and are driven by their neuroses and obsessions throughout their entire lives, and the only way to get better is through constant psychotherapy sessions with people like us."

"That sounds ridiculous."

"That's certainly a valid opinion."

"What could you possibly tell me about my mother?"

"Do you dream about her?"

"Of course."

"That's very interesting for a man in your position. Do you wanna go with that?"

"Could I lie down first?"

"Certainly. Will we be talking about your first natural mother in Poland, or this so-called 'Mary'?"

"That's my problem, doctor. They're both so real to me."

"Your Holiness, before we get started...."

"Yes?"

"Does your insurance cover this?"

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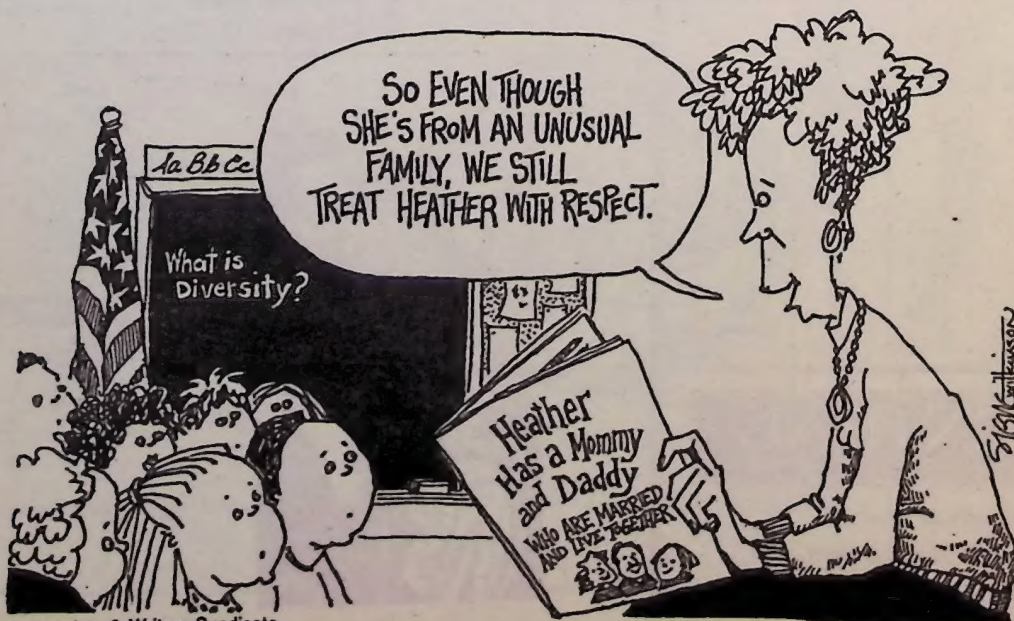


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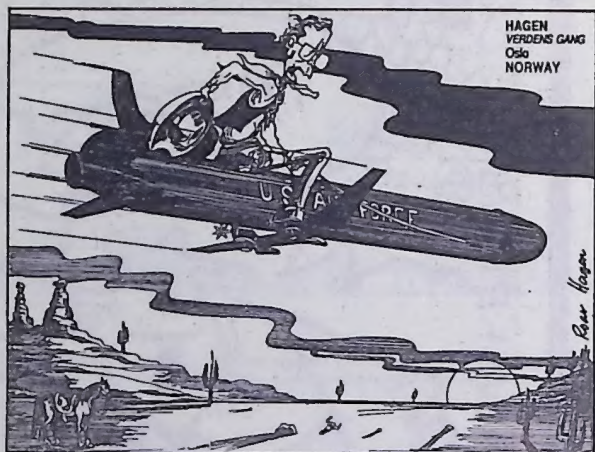
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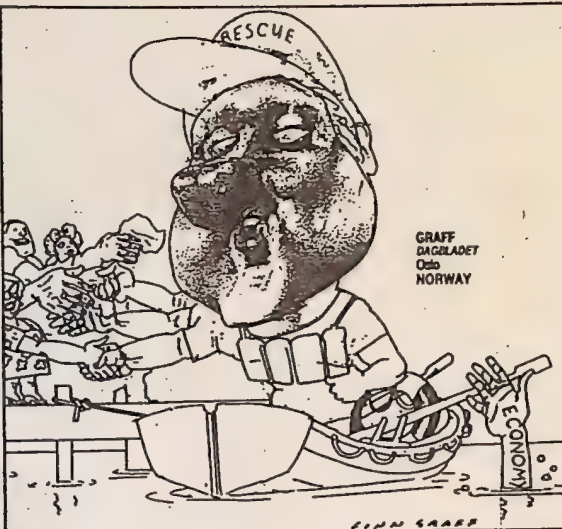


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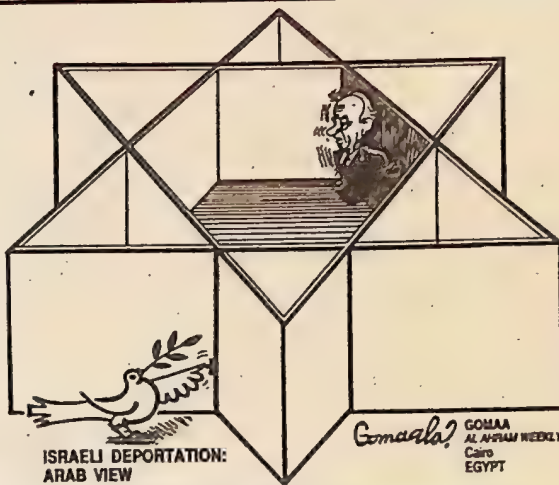
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BORN AGAIN?



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ISRAELI DEPORTATION:
ARAB VIEW

Gomaa
AL AGHAM WEEKLY
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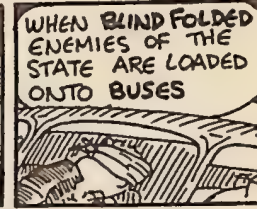
MOIR
SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
Sydney
AUSTRALIA



KIRSCHEN
THE JERUSALEM REPORT
Jerusalem
ISRAEL



IN ANY OTHER
PART OF THE
WORLD



WHEN BLIND FOLDED
ENEMIES OF THE
STATE ARE LOADED
ONTO BUSES



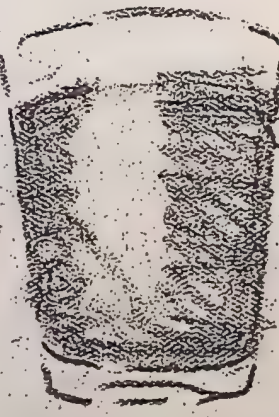
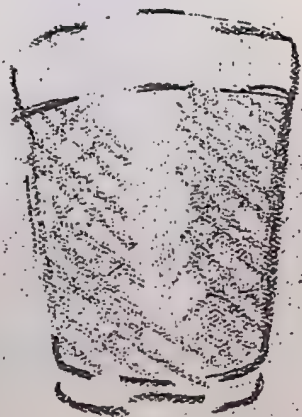
THEY END UP AS
"DISAPPEARED"
PEOPLE



IN ISRAEL THEY
END UP WAVING
ON TV

ISRAELI DEPORTATION:
ISRAELI VIEW

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256-1509



Special Inauguration Report -- by Mike Chrisman

My earliest memory of a political nature was a couple of sing-song chants about Adlai Stevenson. One went: "Adlai smells badly" (sung until the Democratic ten-year-old you were taunting wrestled you to the ground). The other was the equally insightful: "Eisenhower's in the White House, ready to be elected;/Stevenson's in the garbage can, ready to be collected."

I was eleven when Ike was elected the second time. Four years earlier I wasn't fully tuned into the political process. I could barely tie my shoes. But in '56 I knew that Ike and Adlai were running. I had some sense that they were *always* running, just like the World Series always featured the Yankees and Dodgers. I remember asking my folks who they were voting for. I remember thinking that this was an important question...like "Do you believe in God?" or "Are you a Communist?" I remember I was standing in their bedroom when I asked them. They told me, "Eisenhower, of course." Their answer was unemotional, bloodless, as if I'd asked them what time it was, and they told me: "It's the Fifties."

The first person I ever voted for was Eldridge Cleaver (no relation to The Beav). It was 1968, and America was burning. Mine was a protest vote (duh!). But I had hitchhiked from Boston to Madison to work for Gene McCarthy that Spring, and I had been to a rally where Jerry Rubin told everybody they really needed to go to Chicago to preserve democracy, and I had seen the cops beating up hippies on Boston Common, and protest seemed worth voting for.

Four years later, I made my way to the American Consulate in Istanbul to throw my vote away for George McGovern. Then Jimmy Carter came along, and I was happy for him, and I got weepy when Anwar Sadat hugged Menachim Begin and Jimmy hugged them both. He was one of the most honorable men ever to live in that house (hey, Ronnie—care to donate a lecture fee to Habitat for Humanity?). But now he's a footnote, of course, thanks to Reaganbush, the debtmeister.

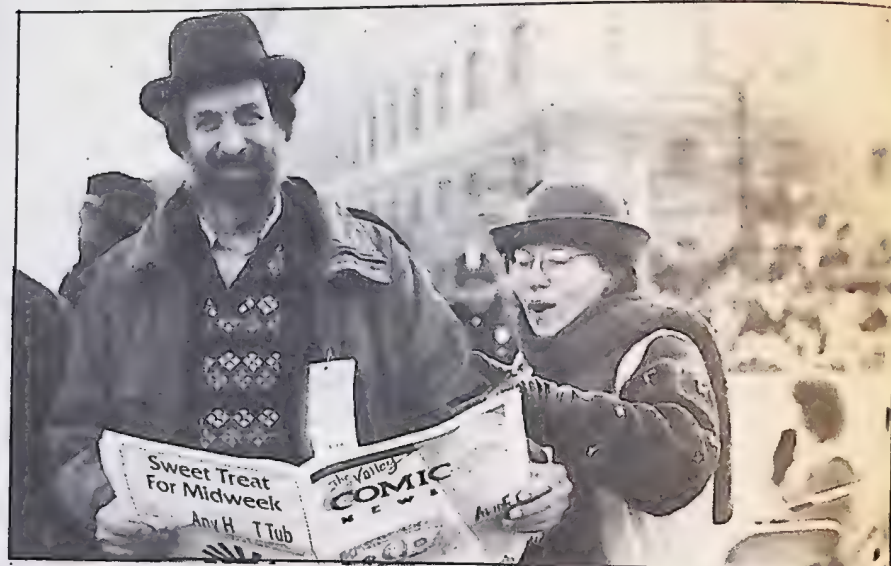
So it's with some measure of joy and anticipation that I welcome Bill and Hillary (and Al. I'm still scared of Tipper, though.). I guess that's why I went to their inauguration. (Note: "Inauguration" comes from the Etruscans, an ancient people who were famed for augury—they were the tabloid psychics of 350 BC, except instead of cards and crystal balls, they used devices like bird-flights and sheep's livers, which I bet worked at least as well as 1-900-PSYCHIC does today.)

Anyway, the Inauguration was a fine party. Years later, I'll be able to tell audiences on the lecture circuit, "Hey—I went to Woodstock and Clinton's Inauguration." But now I just want to tell those new administration characters, "Don't blow it, yo." I want to say, "Keep your eyes on the prize." I want to say, "Just dance with the one that brung ya, and you won't end up being a footnote. You'll be a chapter heading."

Because I think they might be able to do it. Them and us, I mean. I really, really do. No, really. It says so right here in the sheep's liver.



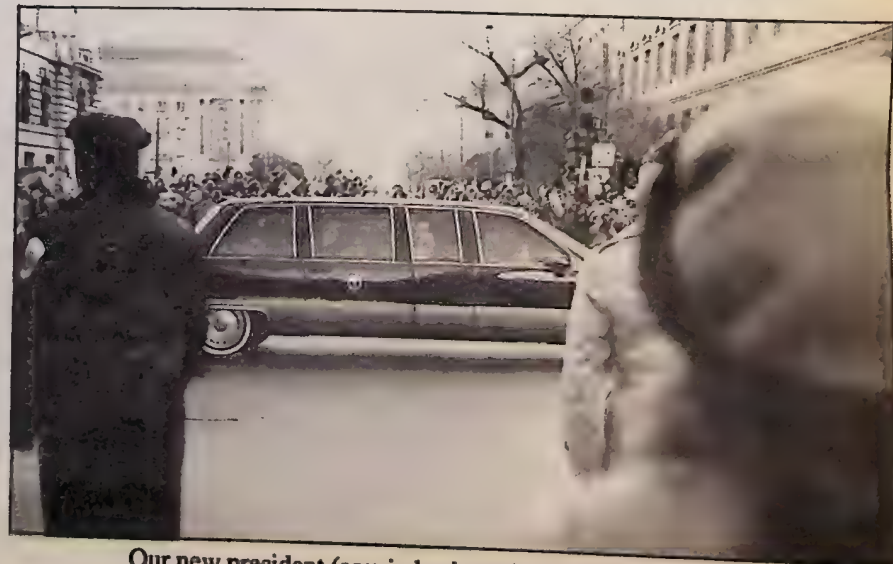
Mike Chrisman is interviewed for Attorney General position



Joe Kurland & Sherry Mayrent of Wholesale Klezmer Band catch up on their hometown newspaper




Lynn Lovely, T-Bone Bender, Richie Davis of Wholesale Klezmer Band



Our new president (arm in back seat) in DC Limo #1


Winter Storms

 A series of powerful Pacific weather disturbances brought further rounds of flooding and mudslides to California, Arizona and around Tijuana, Mex. Besides the inundation of low-lying areas, hillside homes slipped off their foundations due to the downpours, which fell on supersaturated ground. The torrential rains overwhelmed sewage treatment facilities, flushing untreated waste into the water along Southern California's famed beaches.


A county maintenance worker in Chula Vista, Calif., was killed instantly when he was struck by lightning while digging a drainage ditch.

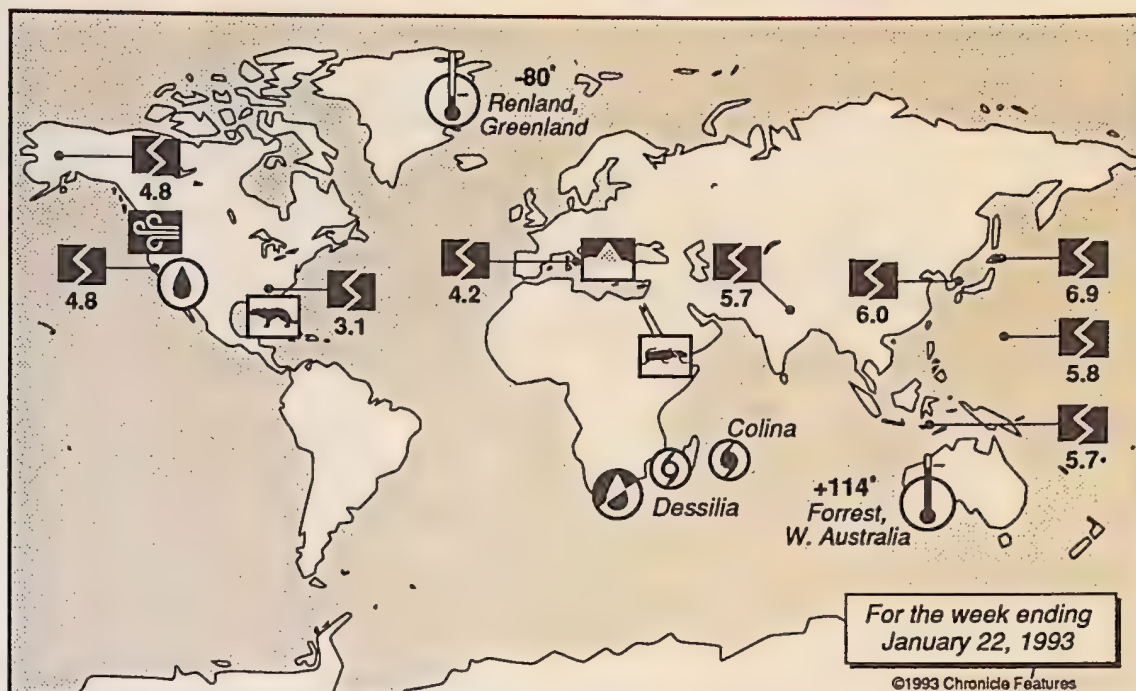
Robin Conzelman of Lake Forest was holding an umbrella when a gust of wind lifted her five feet into the air and hurled her 50 feet. "I feel like Mary Poppins and everyone keeps calling me the Wizard of Oz," said the sprained and bruised 21-year-old. A tornado passing nearby at the time of the wind gust toppled trees and damaged several homes in the Orange County community, just south of Los Angeles.

Wild Winds


 Shifting weather patterns across the Pacific Northwest spawned a powerful windstorm that killed at least four people and left almost 750,000 residents without power. Hurricane-force winds in Washington caused schools to close and halted traffic on major highways.

Drought


 A second year of drought in southern Africa will wipe out most of South Africa's maize crop if there is no rain by the end of January, according to a leading economist. "If good rains fall soon, a large part of the country's 7 million acres of threatened maize could be saved," said Andre Ferreira, senior economist at the National Maize Producers Organization.



Smog


 Warm and windless conditions prevailing across the central Mediterranean are responsible for an episode of unhealthy air that has forced officials to close factories and ban automobile travel from northern Italy to Athens. The smog was so bad in Florence before the measures were imposed that a traffic policewoman became ill and had to be taken to a clinic. In Rome, more than 6,600 renegade motorists caught ignoring the ban were fined \$75 each.

Tropical Storms

 Cyclone Colina pummeled the French island territory of Reunion in the western Indian Ocean with 110-mile-per-hour winds. No deaths or injuries were reported, but the storm uprooted trees and tore the roofs off homes.


Weak tropical cyclone Dessilia formed briefly in the Mozambique Channel.

Earthquakes


 A powerful undersea temblor rocked 27 Japanese cities just four days after the country's strongest earthquake in a decade left two people dead and injured 425 others. The first, most destructive quake caused the worst damage and injuries around Kushiro on Hokkaido Island.

Movements were also felt in Indonesia's Molucca region, southeast Tibet, the Mariana Islands, central Alaska, central Italy, the San Francisco Bay Area, and from southeast Tennessee to northern Georgia.

Swarming Season

 The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization warned that swarms of locusts are threatening countries along the Red Sea. FAO advised that the outbreaks be contained quickly to prevent the movement of the insects into inland countries already suffering from drought and civil war.

Last Chance

 Biologists in Florida believe the only way to save the state's endangered panther may be to crossbreed it with its western cousin, the Texas mountain lion. Only about 30 to 50 of the tawny-brown cats are left in the wild. Many suffer from disease, have genetic defects, or are too closely related to each other and thus unsuitable for further breeding. "In the past three years, we've been finding more and more animals with congenital heart defects, and many males are being born with underdeveloped reproductive organs," said Chris Belden of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. It's believed that crossbreeding with the panther's cousin would strengthen the breed.

Additional Sources: Meteo France Forecast office at Reunion, Mauritius Meteorological Service, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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WISCONSIN



THU
TWENTYEIGHT

Vertex: Selectrocution **Baystate Hotel:** Frances Gumm, Foo, Rumblepuppy
Dave's Other Place: Garry & the Mood Swingers **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music
Pearl Street: The Blushing Brides, The Choice **Iron Horse:** Jane Siberry
Pleasant St. Theatre: The-Player

FRI
TWENTYNINE

Vertex: Led Zep tribute: Counter Attack **Alley Oops:** Boog A Loo **Dave's Other Place:** Sax Maniacs **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music
Huke Lau/Comedy Connection: R-Rated Hypnotist Frank Santos **Academy of Music:** The Crying Game
Pleasant St. Theatre: Damage, The Year That Punk Broke **Hotel Northampton:** Hal Benoit, Charlie Schmidt
Pearl Street: Little Jimmy & The Bad Boys **Iron Horse:** Stanley Jordan **Peking Garden:** Sara Cytron, Bob Gautreau (Fag w/ a gag, Dyke w/ a mike) **Green River Cafe:** Andre Ryabov

SAT
THIRTY

Vertex: Selectrocution **Baystate Hotel:** Rent Party, Southgoing Zax, Mentos **Iron Horse:** Taj Mahal **Pleasant St. Theatre:** Damage, The Year That Punk Broke
Green River Cafe: Craig Eastman, w/ Tom McClung **Alley Oops:** Boog A Loo **Dave's Other Place:** Joe Salens with the Allstar Horns
Pleasant St. Theatre: Damage, The Year That Punk Broke **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** Adam Sandler (from SNL) **Academy of Music:** The Crying Game **Hotel Northampton:** Charlie Schmidt, Chalyce Blair
Pearl Street: Rippopotamus **Peking Garden:** Sara Cytron, Bob Gautreau (Fag w/ a gag, Dyke w/ a mike)

SUN
THIRTY ONE

Academy of Music: The Crying Game **Alley Oops:** New Country w/ DJ Mike P. **Iron Horse:** Seldom Seen (sold out)
Vertex: Tin Pan Alley **Pleasant St. Theatre:** Damage, The Year That Punk Broke **Green River Cafe:** Poets & Players Series

MON
ONE

Academy of Music: The Crying Game

TUE
TWO

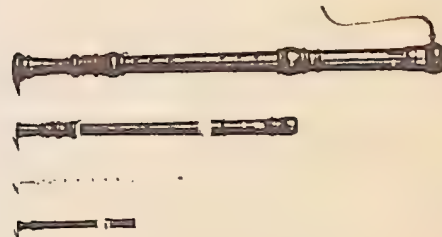
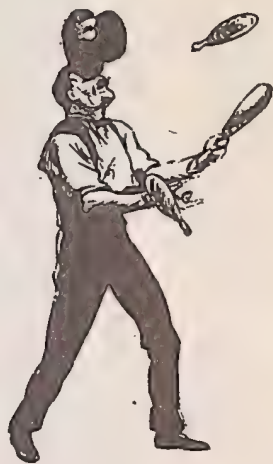
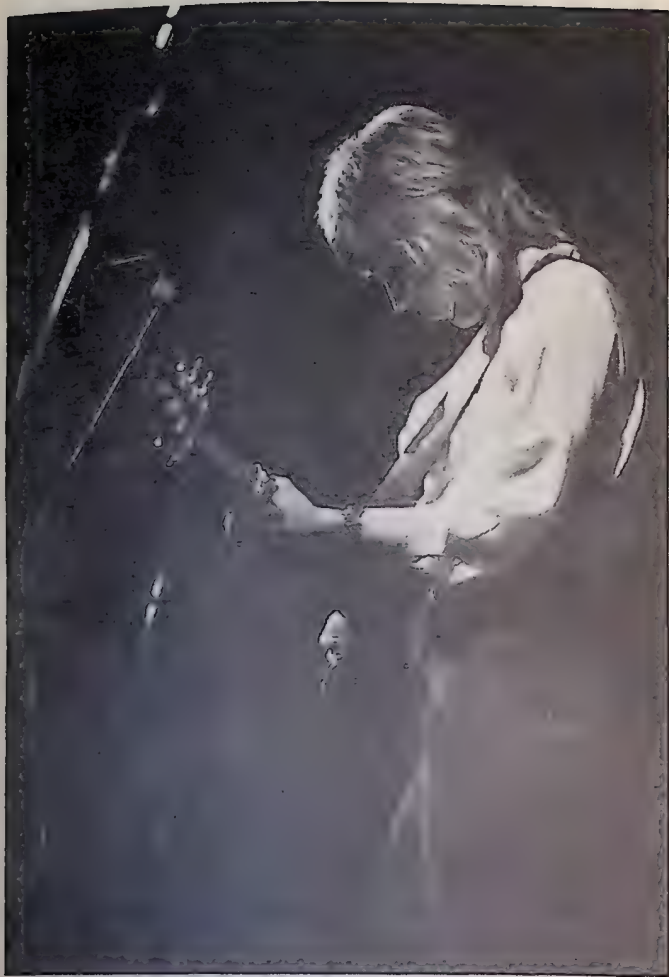
Iron Horse: Herschler Bros.
Academy of Music: The Crying Game
Pearl Street: Marshall Tucker Band, Bear Mountain

WED
THREE

Academy of Music: The Crying Game
Alley Oops: Classic Rock w/ DJ Steve
Iron Horse: PVFS Open Stage

FLICKS

Academy of Music	584-8435
Amherst Cinema	253-5426
Calvin	584-2310
Garden Theater	774-4881
Greenfield Cinemas	772-0298
Hampshire Mall	584-7550
Mountain Farms	584-9153
Pleasant Street	586-0935
TowerTheaters	533-2663



Lucinda Williams at The Iron Horse -- Tobey photo

THU
FOUR

Vertex: Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** Ani DiFranco
Alley Oops: All Request w/ DJ Bobby C. **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music
Dave's Other Place: West End Blues Band **Academy of Music:** The Crying Game
Pearl Street: Physical Graffiti

FRI
FIVE

Baystate Hotel: The Nightcrawlers **Vertex:** Cliffs of Dooneen **Hotel Northampton:** Tom Savoy, Hal Benoit
Dave's Other Place: Wade Mikkola w/ Montenia **Green River Cafe:** Al Fuller Blues Band **Alley Oops:** The Orphans
Pearl Street: Rattle & Hum (U2 Tribute) **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Peking Garden:** Paul Kozlowski, David Cook & guests

SAT
SIX

Iron Horse: Tony Vacca/Tim Moran **Alley Oops:** The Orphans **Dave's Other Place:** Charles Langford
Huke Lau/Comedy Connection: Emo Philips **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music
Peking Garden: Paul Kozlowski, David Cook & guests **Hotel Northampton:** Charlie Schmidt, Chalyce Blair
Green River Cafe: Brooks Williams **Baystate Hotel:** The Nightcrawlers
Pearl Street: James Cotton w/ Luther Tucker & David Maxwell, Wildcat O'Halloran **Vertex:** Selectrocution

SUN
SEVEN

Iron Horse: Cordelia's Dad, The Schramms **Vertex:** The Vibes **Alley Oops:** New Country w/ DJ Mike P.
Green River Cafe: Joe DiCenso, Ed Byrnes Jazz Workshop

MON
EIGHT

Pearl Street: Widespread Panic

TUE
NINE

Iron Horse: Kenny Garrett Quartet
Green River Cafe: Marcello Blanco

WED
TEN

Iron Horse: Lucie Blue Tremblay



IRON HORSE MUSIC HALL

THU 28

JANE SIBERRY

FRI 29

STANLEY JORDAN

SAT 30

TAJ MAHAL

SUN 31

SELDOM SEEN

TUE 2

HERSCHLER BROS

WED 3

PVFS OPEN STAGE

THU 4

ANI DiFRANCO

SAT 6

TOM VACCA/
TIM MORAN

SUN 7

CORDELIA'S DAD
& THE SCHRAMMS

TUE 9

KENNY GARRET
QUARTET

WED 10

&
THU 11

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

Floods

Several waves of heavy rain which spread across northwest Mexico and the southwestern U.S. triggered mudslides and severe flooding over a wide area. One of the hardest-hit cities was Tijuana, where 20 people were killed and 3,000 made homeless by the inundations. In Arizona, the raging Salt River reached its highest level in 13 years.

Massive flooding in the Philippines forced about 53,000 from their homes and killed 11 people in Davao del Norte province.

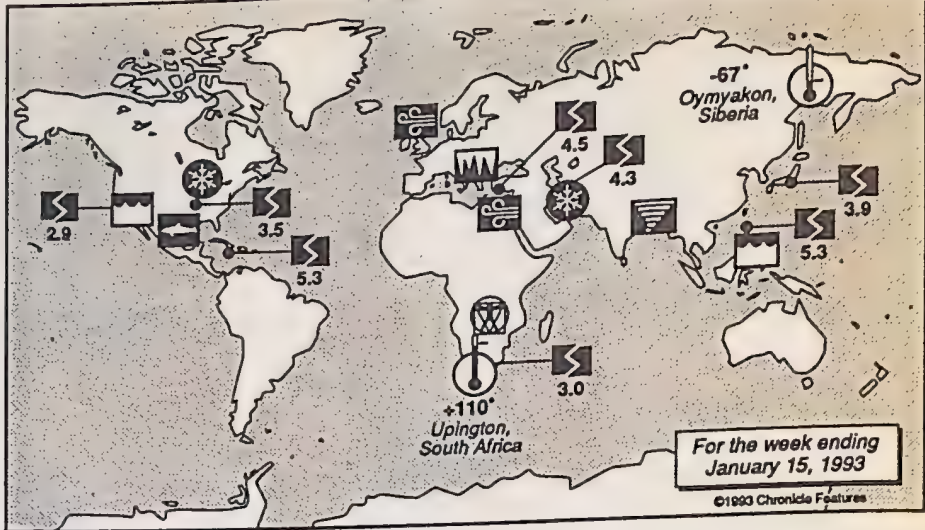
Winter

Powerful winter storms pounded the U.S. from coast to coast, bringing heavy rain, record snowfall, and bone-chilling temperatures. A weather system that had brought more than a foot of snow to areas from California to the Great Plains moved into the Northeast, closing highways, causing traffic accidents, and interrupting air travel. Topeka, Kan., was covered by its biggest snowfall in 93 years when 17 inches fell within a 24-hour period.

Flights into the Iranian capital were canceled and weekly prayers at Tehran University disrupted by a knee-deep snowfall. Streets in the city of 10 million people were deserted, giving it the eerie look of a ghost town.

Epidemic

Cholera has claimed more than 200 lives in the Zambian capital of Lusaka. As a precaution against the spread of the disease, the health minister ordered the city's schools not to reopen for the new term. On average, at least eight people are dying of cholera in Lusaka each day. The country's worst epidemic on record killed more than 500 people in the Copperbelt province during November, and soldiers were brought in to bury the victims in mass graves.



Earthquakes

Six South African miners died and seven were injured after a tremor shook a gold mine about 125 miles southwest of Johannesburg. An earthquake shaking the Caribbean island of Jamaica sent thousands of people rushing into the streets, cracked windows, and caused other minor structural damage. Earth movements were also felt in northwest Iran, southern Turkey, Japan's Izu peninsula, the northern Philippines, Arkansas, and Southern California.

Twister

Scores of villages in Bangladesh's tea-producing Sylhet and Sunamganj districts were damaged by a tornado that skipped across the ground for several minutes. At least 32 people were killed, including 14 who drowned when a ferry was overturned by the twister at a terminal in Sylhet.

January Chill

The bitter Siberian chill blowing over most of Europe during the previous two weeks finally froze the Danube River in Bulgaria, paralyzing river transportation. Hungary, Austria, and Germany have also suspended navigation due to the large chunks of ice floating on the waterway.

Croatian television reported that 485 people had died of hunger and frigid temperatures in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Tempest-Tossed

Strong winds and rain lashed northern Egypt for two consecutive days, shutting down the ports of Alexandria and Suez. The storms brought down trees, street lights, and billboards along the coast.

Hurricane-force winds battering Great Britain broke up the grounded oil tanker Braer into three pieces along the rocky coast of the south-

ern Shetland Islands. Most of its load of 24.6 million gallons of light crude poured into the North Sea, but the raging seas appear to have broken up most of the spill, averting an environmental disaster.

Dolphin Deaths

Marine researchers in Texas have discovered trace amounts of an agricultural pesticide in a coastal area where 112 bottlenose dolphins mysteriously died last year. The dolphin stranding along Aransas and Calhoun counties led to speculation that heavy rains and flooding last spring had flushed pesticides and other contaminants into Texas bays. The researchers had been unable to detect evidence of contamination in any of the animals since they were already badly decomposed when discovered along the shore.

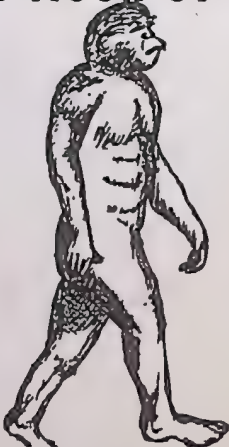
Additional Sources: U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

WILMINGTON

(In Zöeramic Clintovision™)

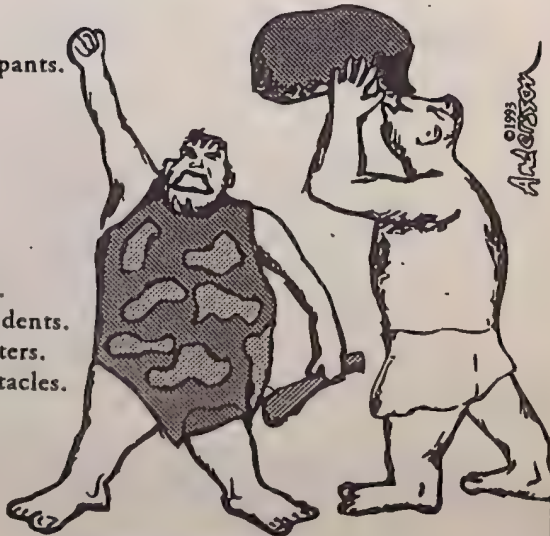
by Mark Kendall Anderson
with thanks to A.S. and J.W.

a flock of sheep, a pride of lions...



ONE TROGLODYTE

- A blank of Match Game participants.
- A manchild of rottweilers.
- A flounce of rhinoplasty.
- A thinking-man's quantity of thinking-man's stuff.
- A velocity of barn swallows.
- A jumpsuit of Deadheads.
- A goatee of ponderous literature.
- A lot of self-important film students.
- A backpedal of Clinton supporters.
- A tentacular of things with tentacles.
- A vestibule of fair maidens.
- A flossy of ocelots.
- A deathbed of strained comic strip themes.



A SASKATCHEWAN OF TROGLODYTES

Max Roach?

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OTHER PLACE

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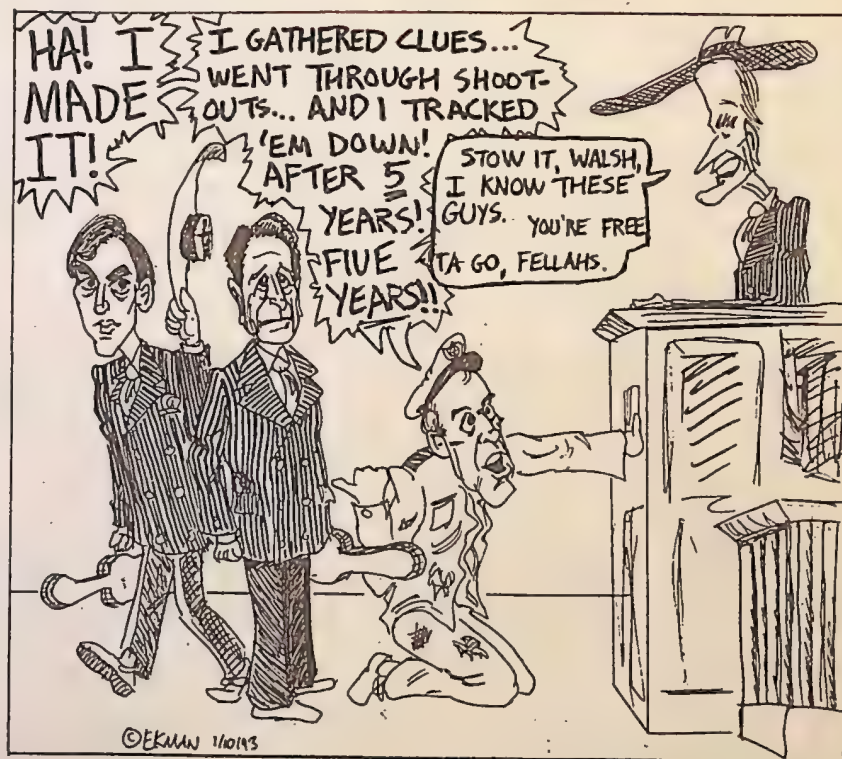
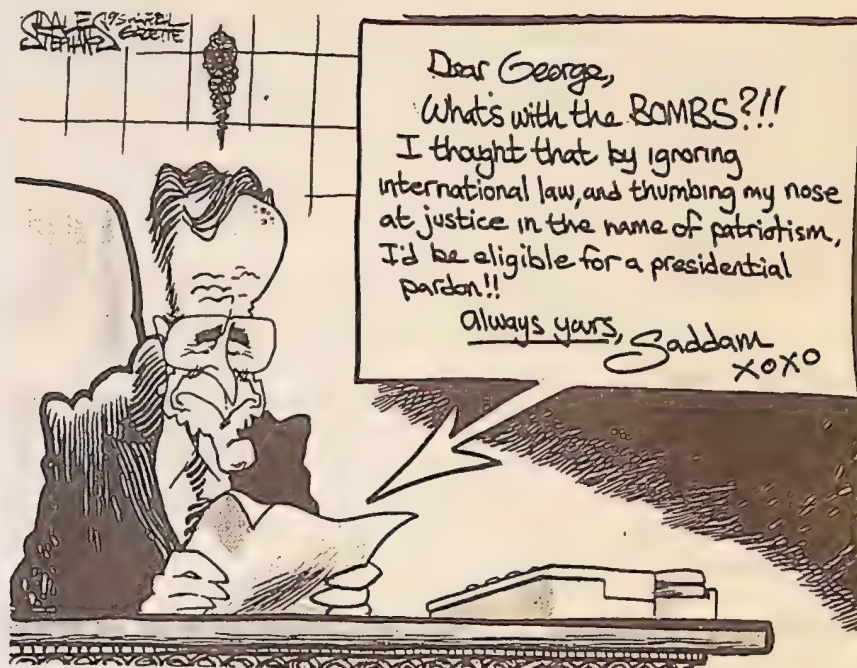
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. If a house is built exactly on the city limits between two towns, how is it decided which town gets to tax the householder?

A. By the placement of the master bedroom. Where the householders go to bed is said to be where they live.

Cyrus the Great of Persia got pretty upset when his horse drowned in a river. So he sentenced the river to death.

About a decade ago, mapmakers added a couple more places to their list of uninhabitable islands in the South Pacific. When word of the first came in, they named it Injury. When the second was reported shortly thereafter, they called it Insult.

The two most lethal weapons are guns and cars. One man did more than any other to quiet both. Hiram Percy Maxim invented the silencer and the muffler.

Snakes don't dream.

French parents cannot legally name baby girls "Prune," "Cherry," or "Vanille."

How many times can a woman expect to fall in love? Statisticians claim they can verify averages of the last dozen years with some accuracy. They say 4.8 times remains typical for the American female.

One out of every six pieces of mail worldwide is U.S. junk mail.

Q. What was the first country in the world to launch a birth control policy?
A. Japan. In 1948.

The first Coca-Cola, according to the historical footnotes, was stirred up in a three-legged iron pot with an oar out in old Doc Pemberton's backyard. He invented it in 1886 as a hangover cure.

The sight of the U.S. Capitol is hardly unfamiliar to President Clinton. The Arkansas Capitol building in Little Rock is a replica. Filmmakers sometimes use it as a background for Washington, D.C. scenes.

An old law of Rochester, Minn., stipulates you can't go swimming in a public pool unless police inspect your bathing suit.

The sponge, though an animal, has no organs.

Q. Isn't the U.S. Army the nation's largest job-training organization?
A. Next to McDonald's it is.

Debate continues about high suicide rates among dentists, chemists, certain specialized doctors. What's rarely pointed out, writes a retired nurse, is suicide tends to be unusually high among any professionals who have easy access to prescription drugs.

Another word for left-handedness is "mancinism."

Vegetarians insist they get more for less. One hundred calories of grain only makes about 15 calories of beef.

A small school of practitioners believes groaning tunes up the cardiovascular system to stave off strokes and heart attacks. They groan daily. For the vibrations. These are supposed to relieve tensions. A mentor to them, Dr. Louis M. Savary, is quoted as offering only one piece of advice: "Groan alone."

Jealousy, too, has been labeled an "inherited trait."

Q. What killed off the free road maps?
A. The Arab oil embargo in the Autumn of 1973. A year earlier, oil companies handed out 250 million maps, more than ever before.

The psychologist Allan Fromme said, "Even the happiest child has moments when he wishes his parents were dead."

If that footprint looks like the footprint of a miniature human being, it belongs to a raccoon.

Every car taken off the road in Australia has to be turned over to a car dealer for recycling. That's a new law there.

One surgical operation to cure snoring is "Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty." You don't hear it mentioned much.

Researchers claim the average man gets a haircut every 20 days.

Far more dogs than cats are obese.

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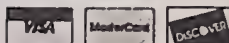
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THE BLUSHING BRIDES

The Choice

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& THE BAD BOYS

• Free Before 10pm •
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Sat., Jan 30 • 9pm

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Tues., Feb 2 • 8pm

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Bear Mountain

Thurs, Feb 4 • 9pm • 18+

Led Zeppelin Tribute

PHYSICAL GRAFFITI

Fri, Feb 5 • 9pm • Rock 102

Free Rock Friday

RATTLE & HUM

(U2 Tribute)

Sat, Feb 6 • 9pm • WRSI

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Featuring Luther Tucker & David Maxwell

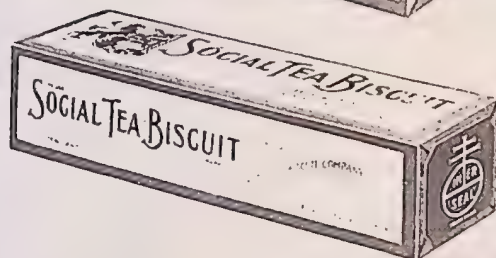
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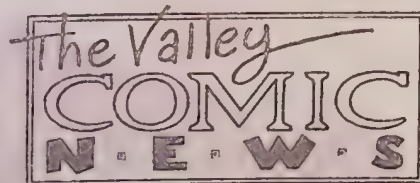
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BOOKKEEPER IS THE ANSWER

What's the question?

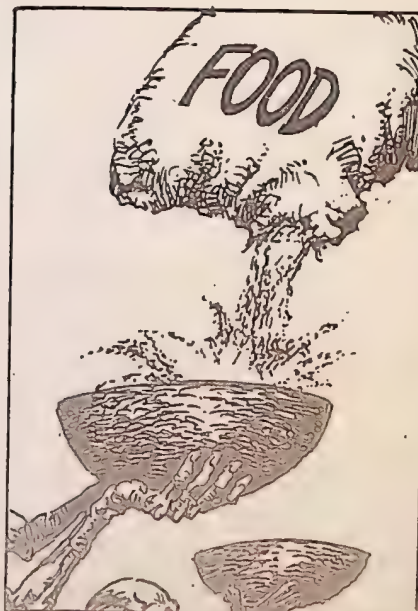
- 1) Who can we get, part time, to help with billing and data entry?
- 2) What's the only word in English that has three sets of adjacent double letters?



Massachusetts' first
comic newspaper
is looking for a bookkeeper
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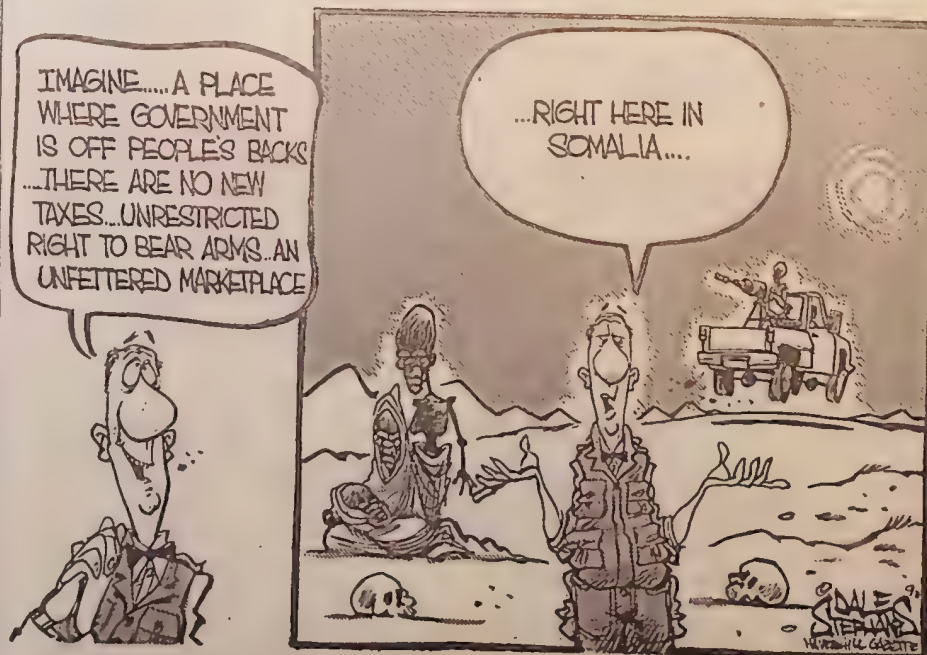
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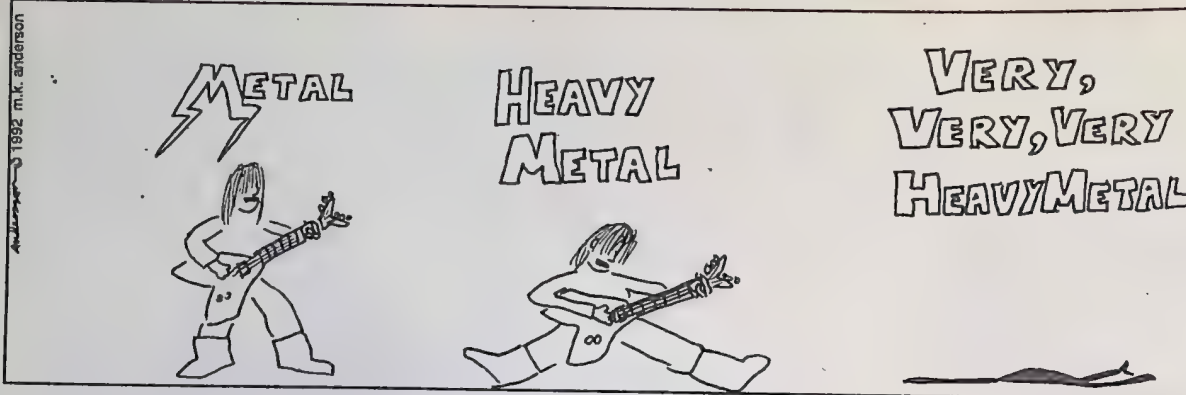


THE USUAL FEEDING



LOCAL HEROES

Wilmington

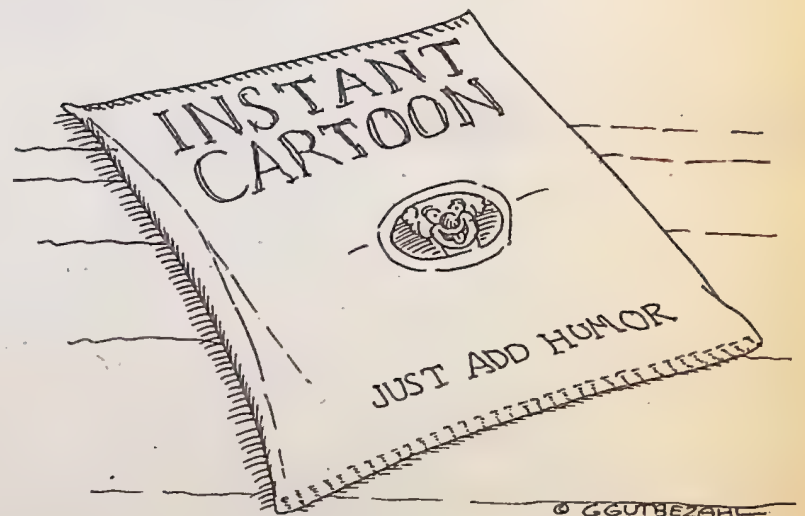
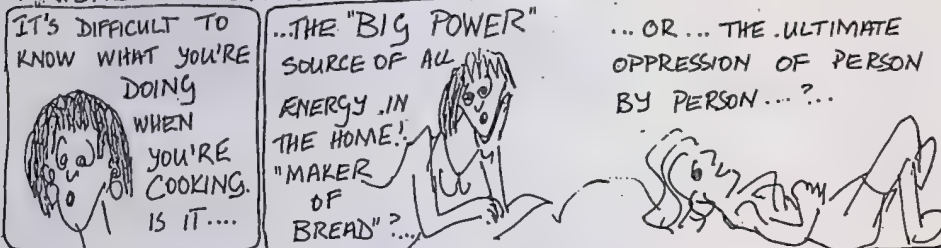


dog feathers by Giles Hopkins



HORACE HAD ALL THE ANSWERS.

FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB:



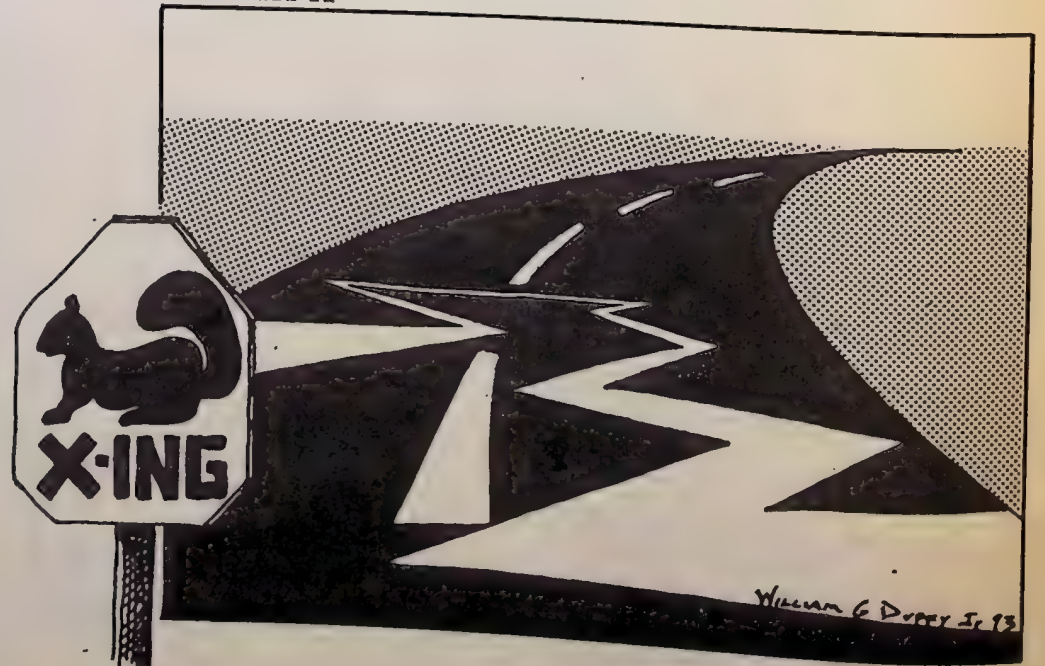
HAIR OF THE DOG

by Flaherty

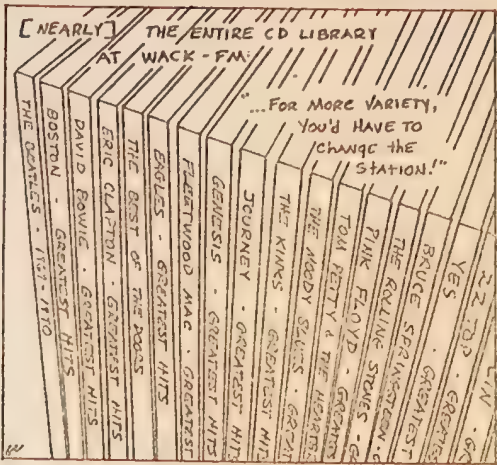
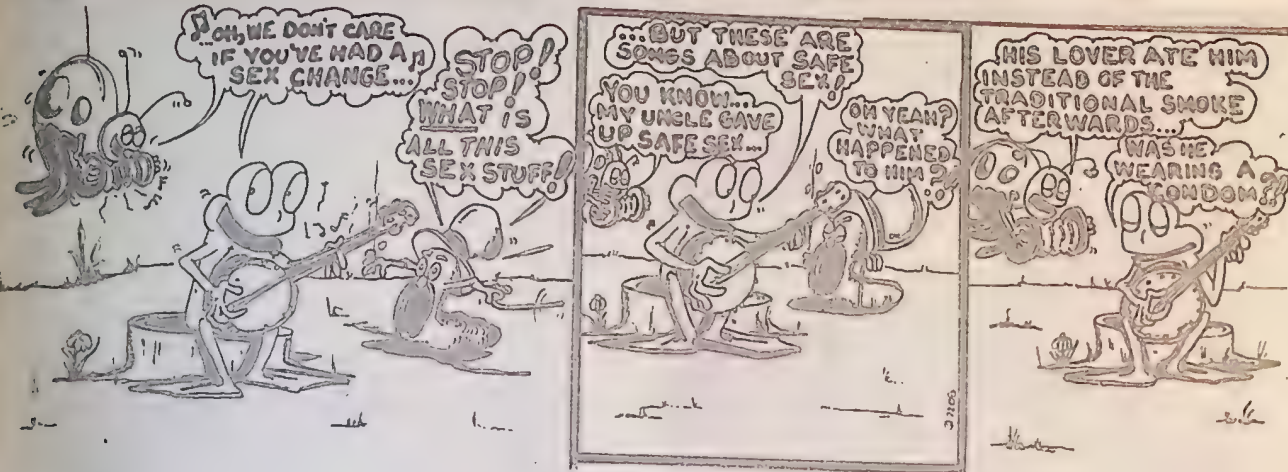


"YES, I CONCUR, IT'S MOST DEFINITELY THE RESULT OF A RARE PARASITIC ORGANISM THAT WORKED ITS WAY INTO THE FOOD CHAIN."

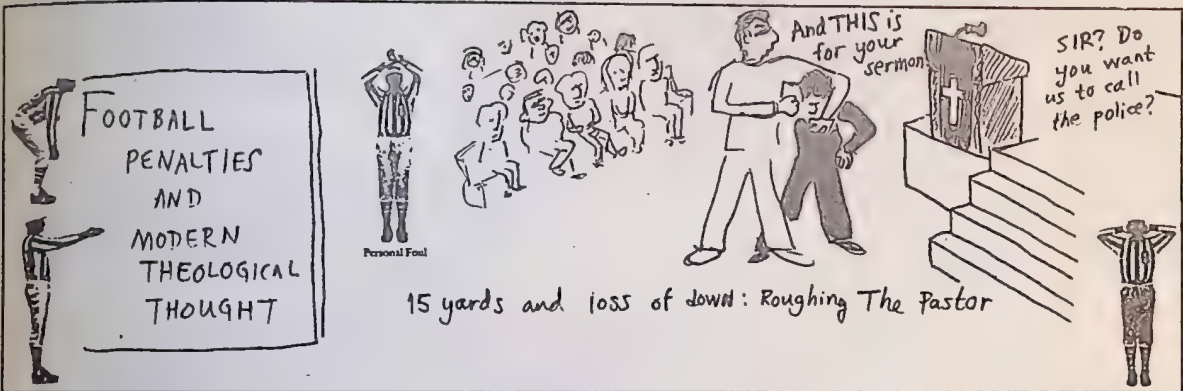
THINK'R



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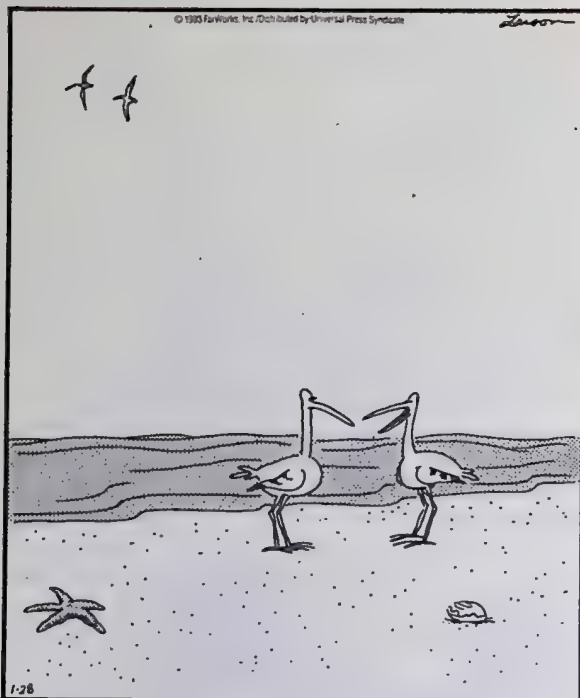
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THE FAR SIDE

BY GARY LARSON



"You're not fooling me, Ned. ... Taking a long walk on the beach sounds romantic, but I know you're just looking for crustaceans."



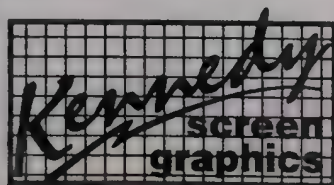
Regrettably, Professor DeWitt's boasting fell on too many jealous ears, and that night, as he stumbled from the bar, he was etherized by an unknown assailant and "relieved" of his trophy.



"You're darn lucky, Saunders. ... If that rhino had really respected you as an enemy, he'd have done a heck of a lot more than just slap your face."



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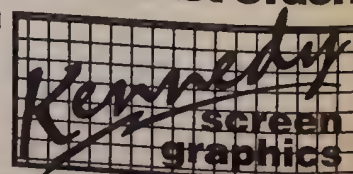
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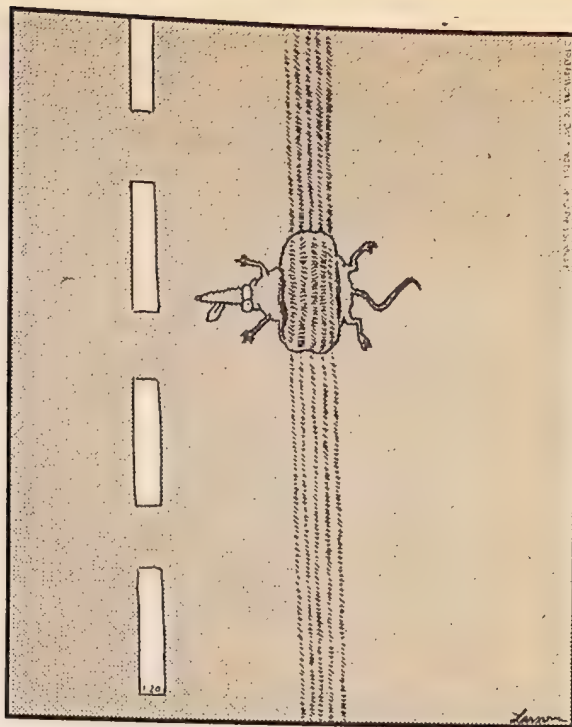
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"We're screwed, Marge. Big Al was our star attraction, the king of the show. ... And now he's gone."



Scenes that make a crow smile



With no one looking, Konor would secretly sprinkle on a few sprouts.



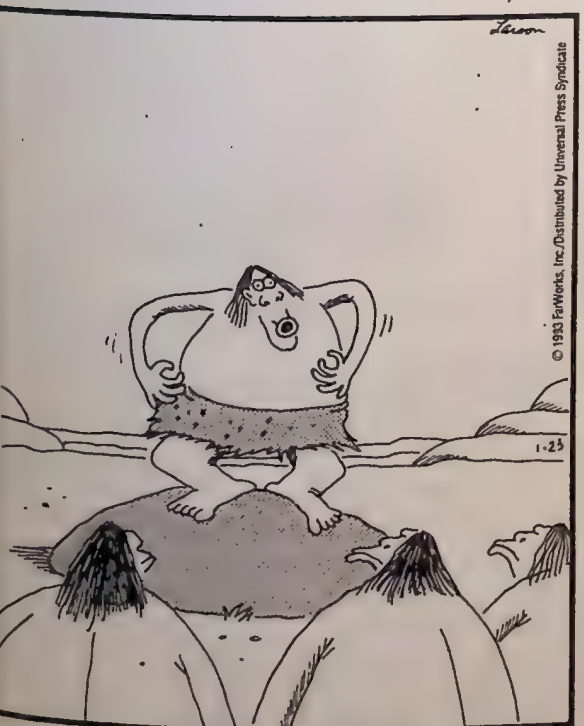
Snake department stores



Scene from "Insurance Salesman of the Opera."



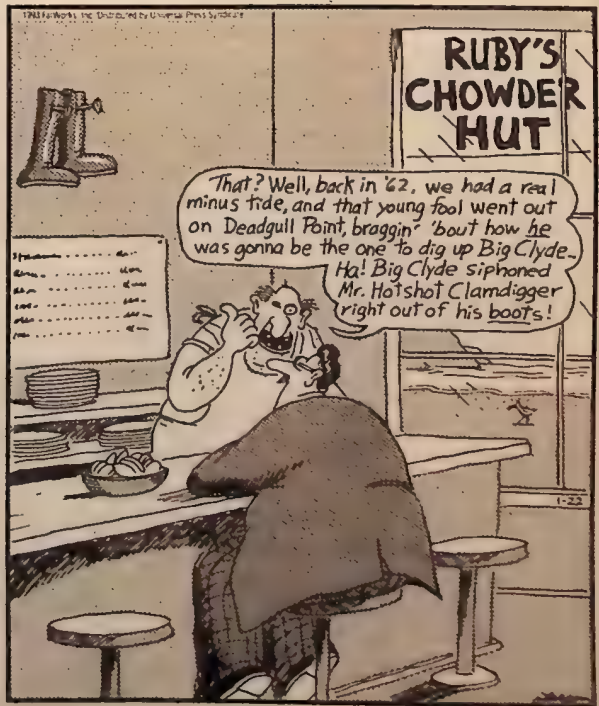
Carlton falls for the old rubber-scalpel gag.



And then, just as he predicted, Thag became the channeler for a 2 million-year-old gibbon named Gus.



Impolite as they were, the other bears could never help staring at Larry's enormous deer gut.



More bivalve lore

Leold at 15

by Roger&Salem Salloom

One of my older friends, Ronnie Lavestall, had a role in a Shakespearean play. After the shows he started wearing his tights home under his jeans.

I guess he loved Shakespeare.

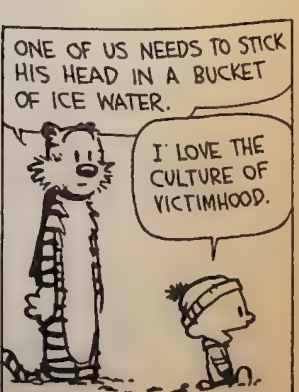
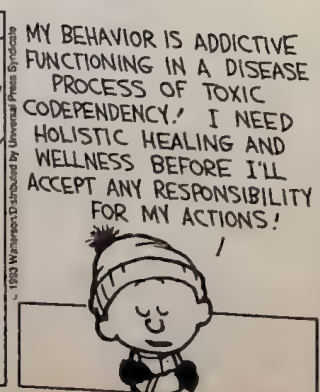
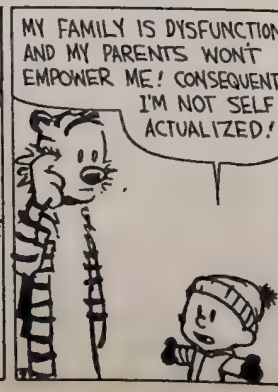
Ronnie actually had some problems which surfaced later in his life.

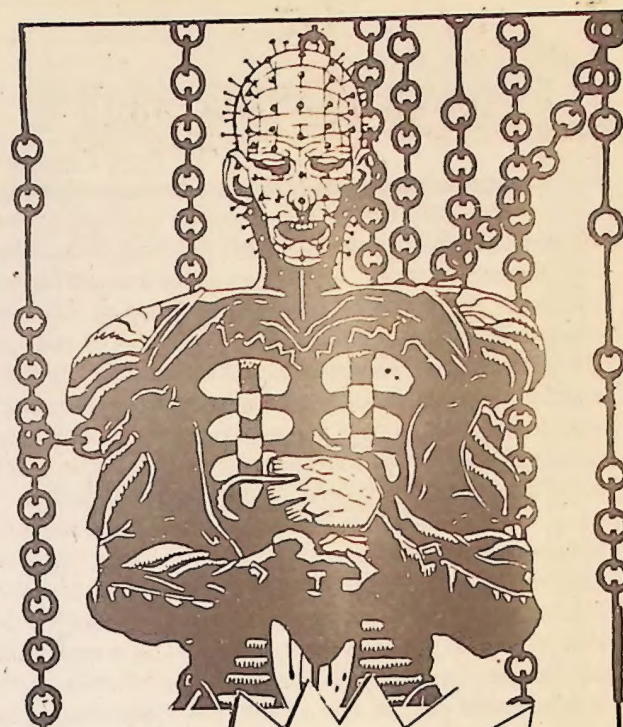
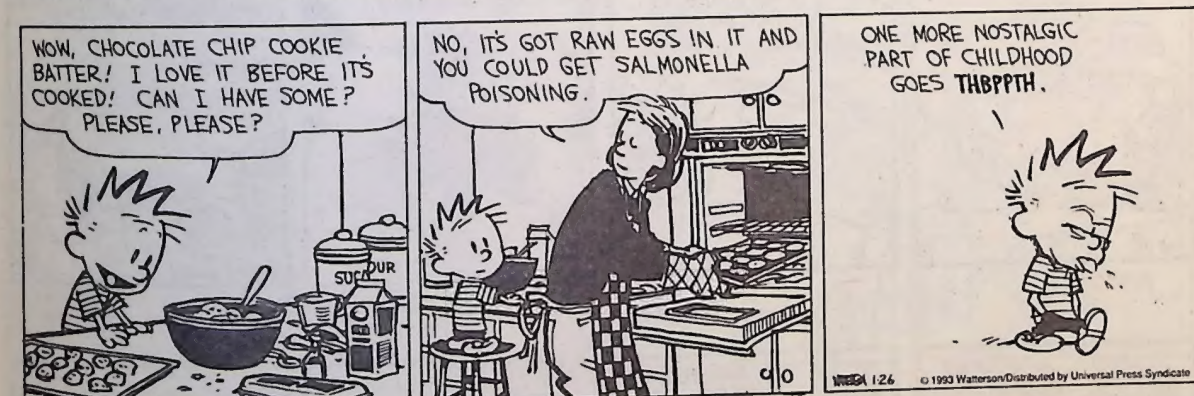
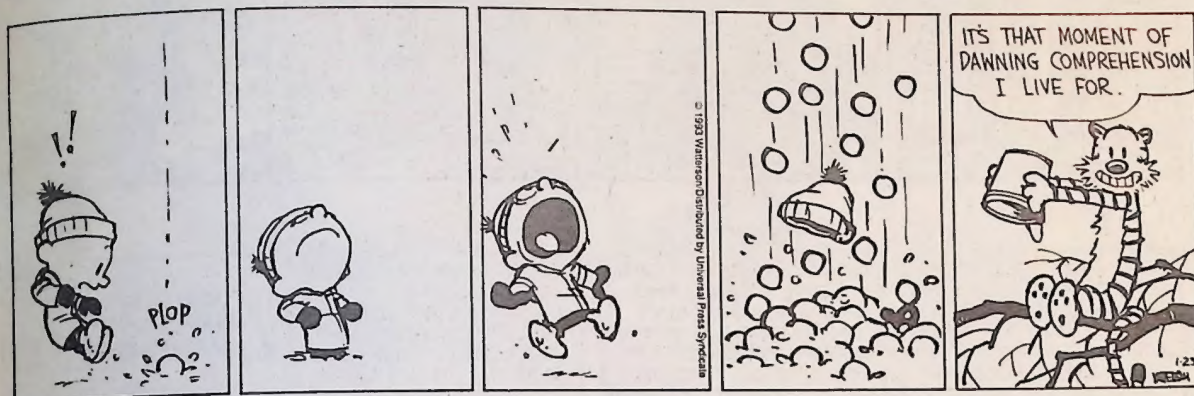
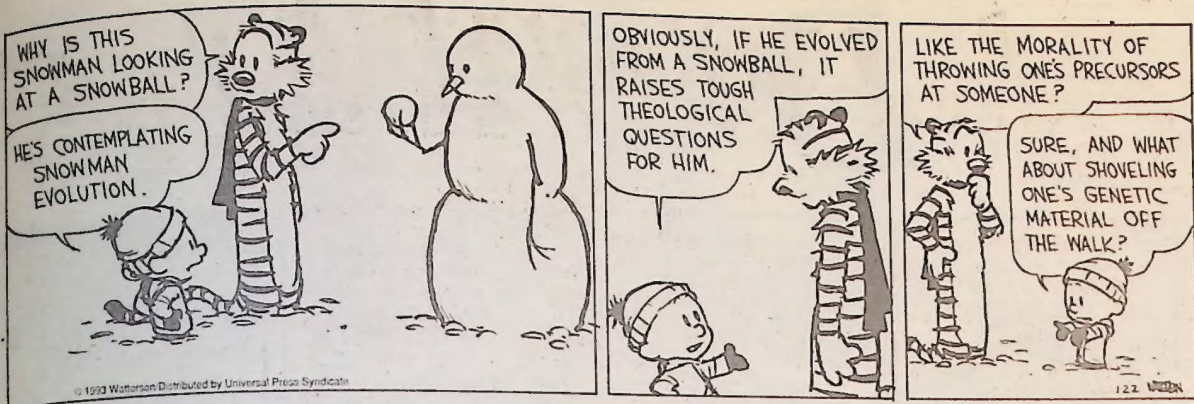
He couldn't free himself from the things which tormented him. He tried putting his hands inside himself to extract the fiendish devils which lived in him. It worked for a while. But then Ronnie would have to exorcise them again and again.

In short, Ronnie knew how to have a good time.

calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON





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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

President Clinton has lifted the gag rule imposed by George Bush several years ago. We at the Comic News rejoiced at this announcement since we use gags all the time and had suffered under the gag rule. The rule stipulated that all humorous, or supposedly humorous, ideas had to be tried out on other people. Even ideas that no one wanted to take responsibility for had to be, under the gag rule, brought to completion. No professional could even mention the option of not uttering the joke or not finishing the cartoon. Our editor was barred from suggesting that we "just forget it," or reminding us that losing the thought was an option.

Humor is held in high regard here. No one wants to give birth to a gag that is scorned or not respected, so we rely on the editor to counsel us as to our choices. Sure, he could advise us to keep the idea because we might get used to it. He could also suggest that the idea be given to someone else to develop. This is easier said than done because we all know how hard it is to place an unfunny premise with someone else. In this society, folks only want hysterical material or stuff with great potential.

The Comic News staff was in a terrible bind because we were loose and easy with our humor. We would expose our ideas to anyone: delivery people, sales reps, people looking for other offices in the building. If you made eye contact with any one of us, we'd do it with you right then and there; puns, wisecracks, double entendre, jokes in dialect. It didn't matter which way you liked it. To tell the truth, if no one was around, we'd do it by ourselves.

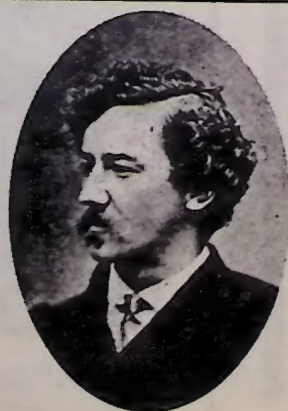
For a while we tried to abstain from funny thinking altogether, but that didn't work. Unfortunately, getting a premise for a joke is just so damn exciting. The flash of inspiration comes, and you don't think about the consequences of bringing the joke to term. We've all been in a situation where we think we're so clever and blurt out a remark that we swear is hysterically funny, but as soon as it leaves our mouth, we regret it. The next day we can't even face the person we told the joke to. Humiliated and feeling primal, we slither past snickering friends. The wisenheimers in our group call us up from pay phones and ask if we'd like to go to the High School Laff-Off and entertain "a couple of their friends." Often, we're in this position because of alcohol or other inhibition-inhibiting substances.

Until the gag rule, citizens of all kinds experimented with humorous material at will, confident we wouldn't have to live with the idea if we didn't want to. We knew that if the joke was really bad or it had been done by 47 comedians on TV or it was denigrating, offensive, or dangerous to our health, someone would advise us of a quick, clean, and legal way to end the joke. We had that option until George Bush knuckled under intense lobbying pressure from Operation Hee Haw. They hid their true agenda behind pseudo-scientific evidence that stated within each premise lies a fully formed joke. They claimed they were for free speech whether it was wanted or not. Their slogan was "every joke is funny to someone." Few noticed how indifferent they were to the joke after it was uttered.

The consequences of Operation Hee Haw's success was severe. A nationwide rash of horrible humor, mindless comedians and endless comedy shows on TV broke out all over the land. The most severely affected were kids and narrow-minded adults. It is this group that will benefit the most from the lifting of the gag rule.

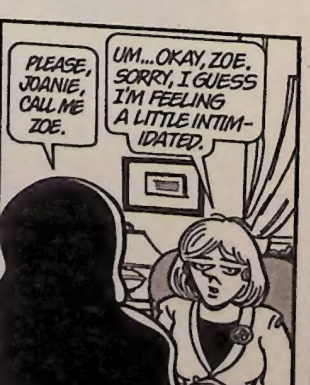
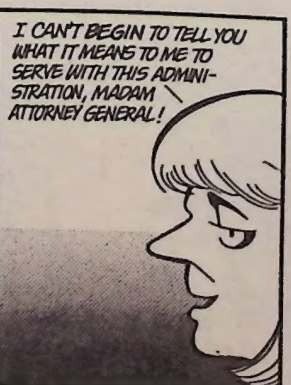
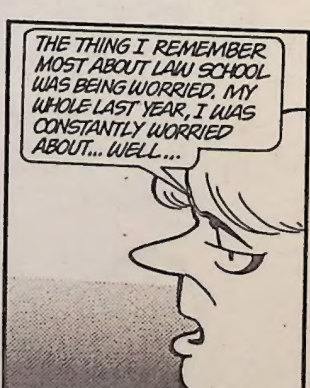
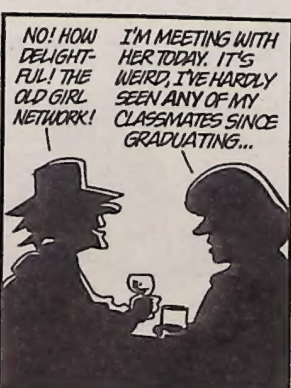
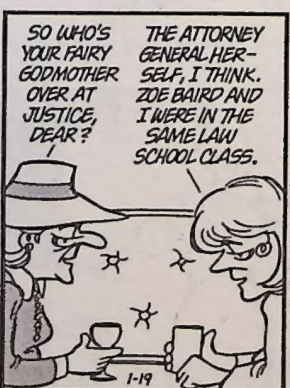
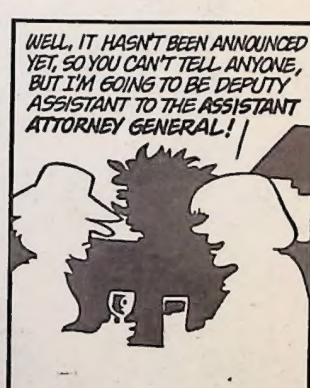
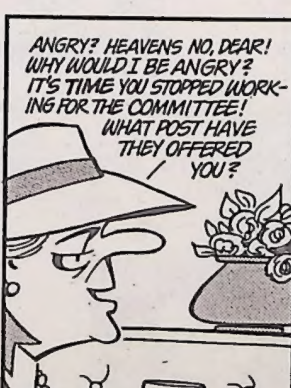
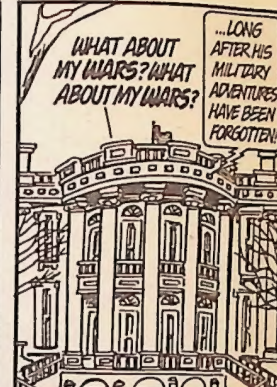
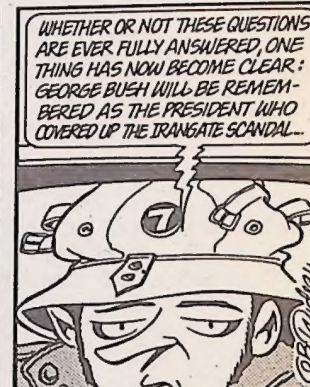
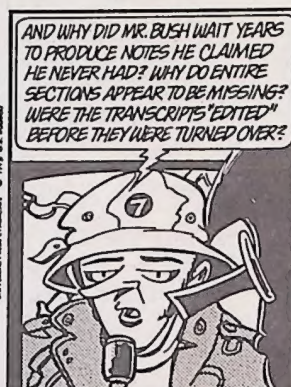
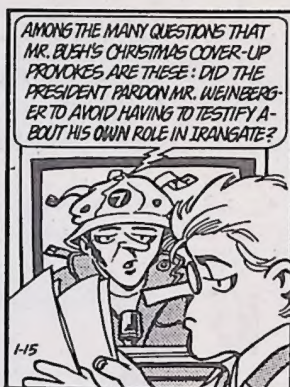
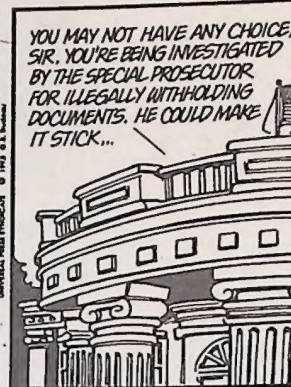
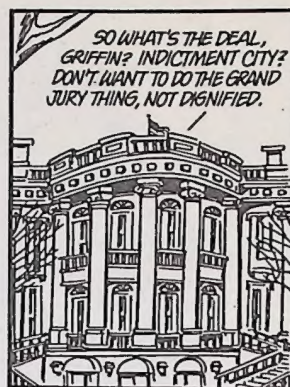


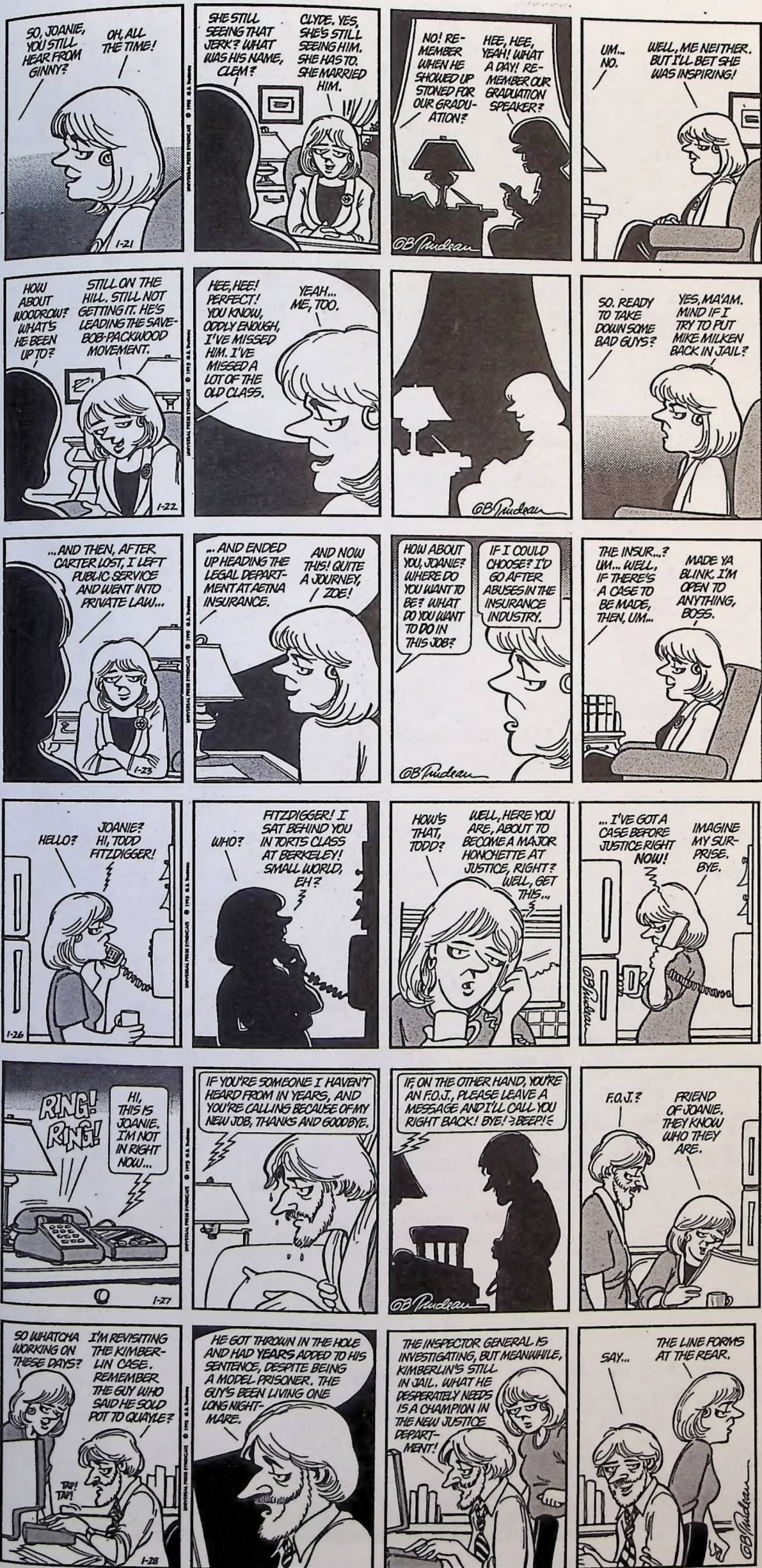
James Whistler



Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





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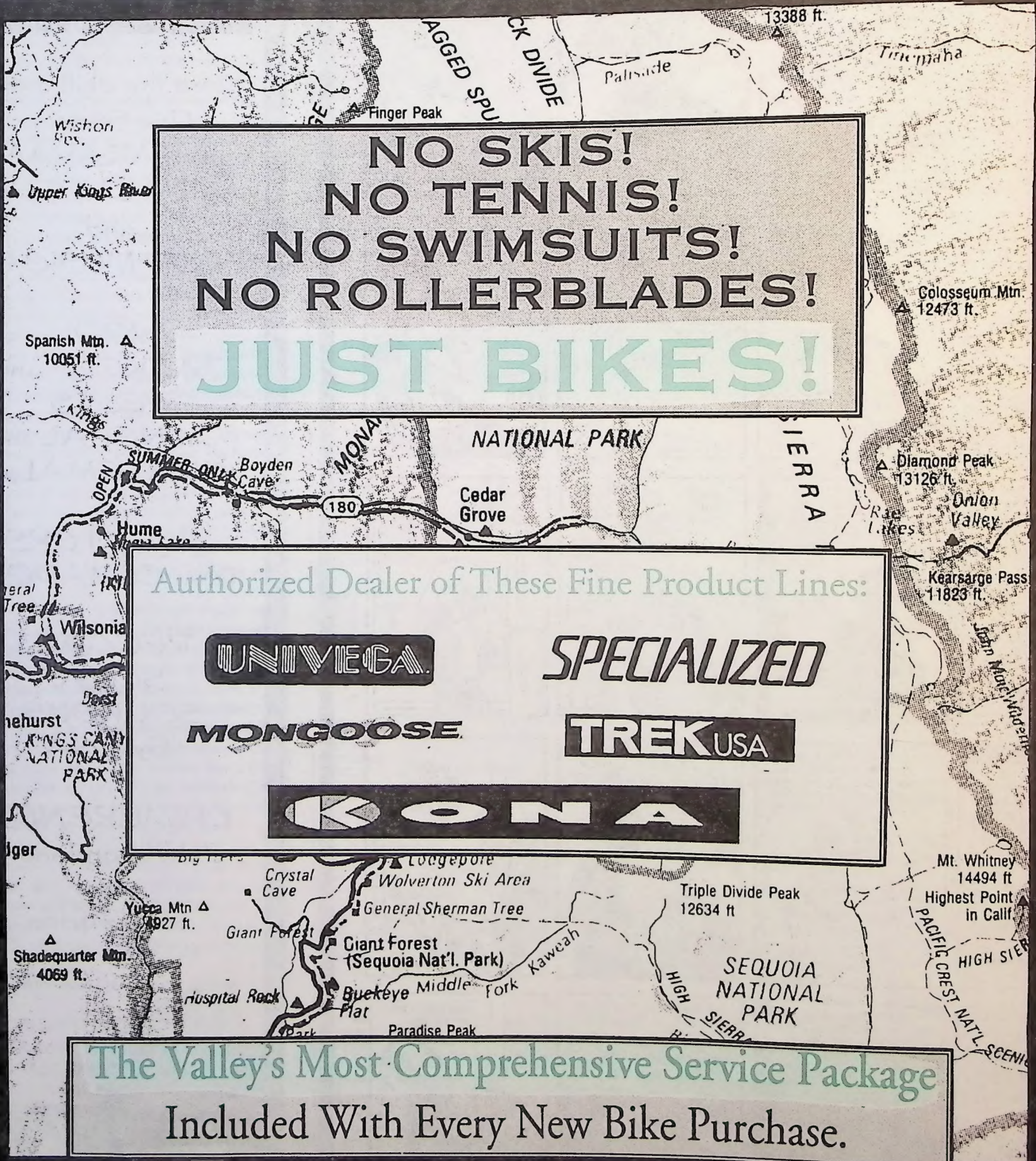
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